CUC lowers LEAC charge due to drop in fuel prices. » PAGE 13

Experience Mt. Tapochau like you've never before. » PAGE 6

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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CUC wants CHCC held in contempt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

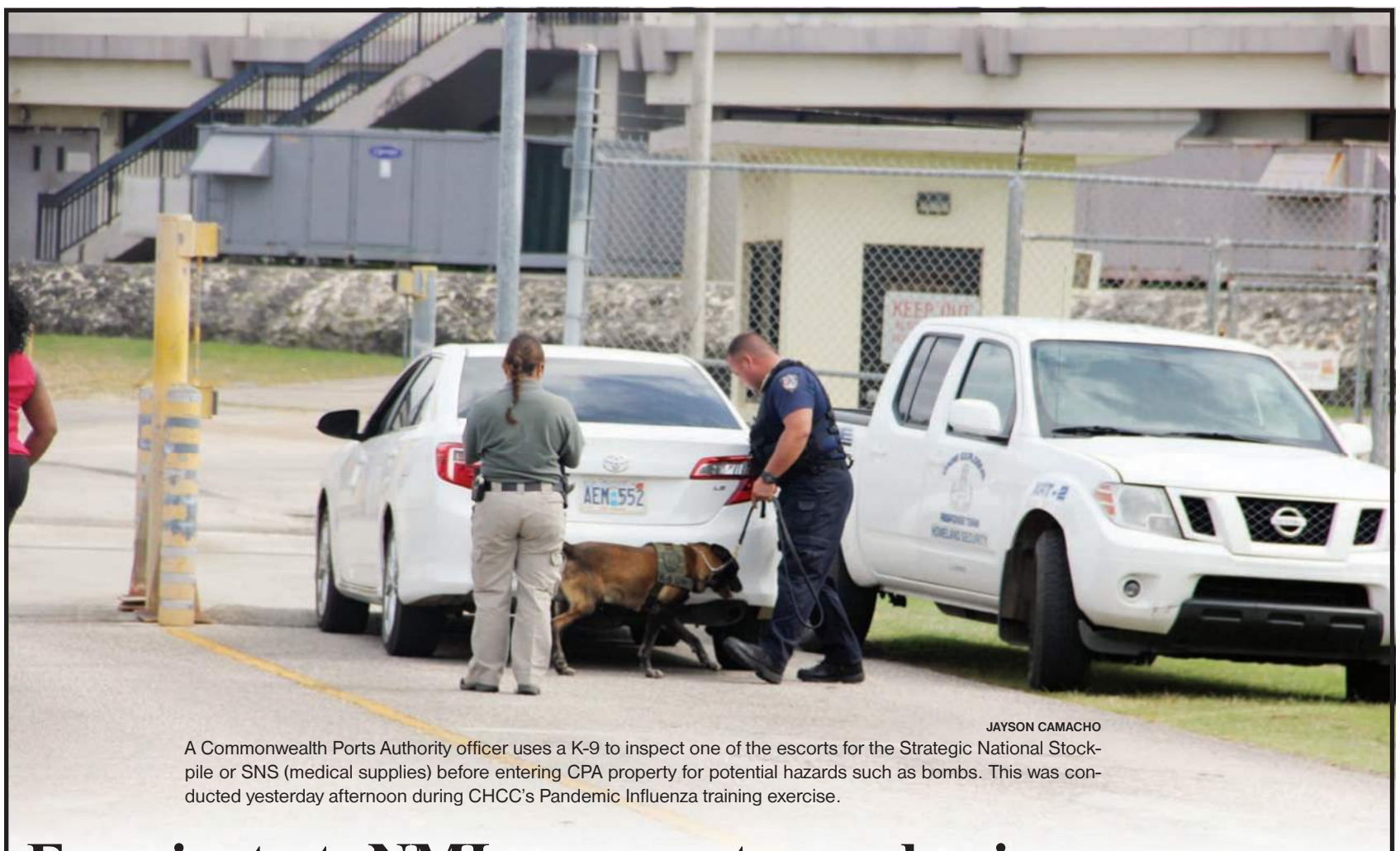
The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday asked for a court order holding the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in contempt for ignoring a $1.3-million bill for utility services for three months, causing CHCC's total overdue balance to balloon to $14.7 million.

» CHCC allegedly ignored $1.3M billings for 3 months
» Now owes $14.7M in unpaid utility services, fees

CUC, through counsel James S. Sirok, asked the Superior Court to issue a show-cause order requiring CHCC to appear in court and explain why it should not be held in contempt for failing to comply with the court's orders of May 29, 2014, and Jan. 20, 2015.

At the May 29 hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered CHCC to remain current with its monthly billings beginning June 1, 2014, or risk contempt, including consideration by the court of allow-

See CUC on Page 4



JAYSON CAMACHO

A Commonwealth Ports Authority officer uses a K-9 to inspect one of the escorts for the Strategic National Stockpile or SNS (medical supplies) before entering CPA property for potential hazards such as bombs. This was conducted yesterday afternoon during CHCC's Pandemic Influenza training exercise.

Exercise tests NMI response to pandemic

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several government agencies worked together almost half the day yesterday in a full-scale training exercise that planned out the distribution of large quantities of medicine and medical supplies in the event of an influenza pandemic in the CNMI.

The training started at about 9am at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall, with the introduction of the training program called Strategic National Stockpile/Receiving Staging Storing/Medical Countermeasures Pandemic Influenza Full Scale Exercise.

Carl Haddon, On Scene Training Associates LLC director and instructor, and instructor Anthony Correia briefed participants on what would take place in the event any outbreak or disaster were to hit the CNMI.

Warren F. Villagomez, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Public Health-Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program director, said Fiesta was selected as the command

See EXERCISE on Page 2

Inos: 'I am okay'

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Inos

Gov. Eloy S. Inos finally broke his silence on his noticeable absence from public view with a statement yesterday that said he is "okay."

His absence in the last few days due to medical concerns has triggered questions and speculations. Inos was last seen in public on Jan. 12, 2015, during the inauguration of the new administration.

"Over the last few days, there have been many questions concern-

See INOS on Page 4

Paving of Kagman roads to start soon

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After nearly decades of problems with potholes, dust, and damage to cars, several roads in Kagman III and some in San Vicente are now in the process of being paved by Hawaiian Rock Products.

Hawaiian Rock received its permit yesterday afternoon from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, giving the go-signal for the company to proceed with the project.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said the permit has been approved and that he had called Hawaiian Rock himself to notify them of it.

BECQ administrator Frank M. Ra-

See KAGMAN on Page 2

INSIDE

LOCAL
Norman T. Tenorio advises that success comes to those who take calculated risks.
» PAGE 8

WORLD
Mexican opium farmers are expanding their plots to keep up with a heroin boom.
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LIFE & STYLE
Robin Williams' children and wife are feuding over the late comedian's estate.
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Local

EXERCISE

From Page 1

center for the exercise.

The training

The training officially began at 1:30pm where the transportation, operations, security, and air operations set out to retrieve medical supplies from the airport.

The group retrieving the supplies had to go through various check ups before they could go anywhere.

During the airport exercise, the CNMI state representative met up with the U.S. Marshals to release the supplies while the Department of Public Safety and other security agencies escorted them to the point of distribution at CHCC's medical supply storage in Lower Base.

Along the way, an "accident" occurred and a different route had to be taken immediately. Escorts then turned into China Town and reached Lower Base via a different route.

DPS-TRET team then secured the perimeter so that the packages were delivered safely. It was then put into the warehouse where contents could be stored prior to delivering them to areas in need of the supplies.

DPS acting director Pete Leon Guerrero said that DPS' part was to make sure that the package is securely transported from the airport to the warehouse.

"If an epidemic happens, everybody would want it right away especially CHCC and there would be a need to get the medication quickly for the medical providers to distribute it so we had to transport it safely to the distribution point," Leon Guerrero said.

Great response

Haddon and Correia praised the groups that took part in yesterday's training, saying they did well, but saw some parts of the exercise that needed to be addressed.

Villagomez said the overall activity on the first day was very successful.

"All our partners and stakeholders participated in full force and we pulled the first day very well. We took comments from the instructors and recommendations so that we could address it and better prepare for any emergency," Villagomez said.

He said Haddon and Correia noted some of the timing and steps to be addressed.

"Nothing major happened during the event of the transportation and our partners did great," he said.

Organizations that took part in the exercise included CHCC's PHEPP, Medical Supply Office, HAZMAT responders, maintenance/facility, finance division, Department of Public Lands and its various divisions; Customs Border Patrol, CNMI Customs, DPS (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota), Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Northern Marianas College, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers, TakeCare FHP, Rota Health Center, Tinian Health Center, St. Jude Renal Dialysis, Pacific jurisdictions (Hawaii, Guam, and Republic of Marshall Islands), U.S. Marshal, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan Health Clinic, Priority Care, and Medical Associates of the Pacific.

KAGMAN

From Page 1

bauliman signed the permit on Monday.

The paving project includes three areas in Kagman III—Chopak Drive, Pine Drive, and Mangga Street—and Katbon Road in San Vicente.

"I want to thank Gov. Inos for identifying the funds for the projects and also to my colleagues from the 18th Legislature for supporting the appropriation legislation, which became public law, said Deleon Guerrero.

He hopes his colleagues in the 19th Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation will support additional funding to pave other roads in parts of San Vicente, Kannat Tabla, As Terlaje, Papago, As Teo, and Kagman.

"Now that DPW and the contractor, Hawaiian Rock, have secured the necessary permits, we hope project mobilization will commence in a few days, if not sooner. I will make myself available to be a part of the project team to ensure construction efficiency pursuant to U.S. construction standards. I urge residents in these areas to be patient during the construction. I am confident that the contractor will place all necessary measures for safety purposes, during and after each working day," Deleon Guerrero added.

In a separate interview, Hawaiian Rock CNMI manager Ponce Eorotan said yesterday that since they received the notice to proceed in January, they only have seven months to complete the project.

Eorotan noted that their company will start first an erosion control installation for stormwater runoff this month.

"We will do some clearing after the erosion control and by March we will start integrating and backfilling the base course and start compacting it," Eorotan said.

Govt continues review of employee contracts—Torres

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The government is continuing its review of the contracts of Executive Branch employees and determining which agencies would need more personnel.

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said a meeting has been set this week with Cabinet members to discuss the contracts.

Currently, the government has anywhere from 3,000 to 4,000 employees, Torres said.

Not all contracts will be reviewed, though, Torres said, as other agencies have their own review and requirement process.

There will also be no timeframe as to when the new contracts will be signed, because some contracts are ending this month, while others might end later.

Torres said government is looking at the enforcement agencies, such as the police and tax collection personnel, for the additional manpower.

He said, however, that the current number of employees in government may or may not increase, as some personnel might be transferred to other departments via "lateral" movement.

As of the moment, some 80 employees on Rota and around 90 employees on Tinian have their contracts already signed, Torres said.

On Saipan, employees have already turned in their papers, but it was not yet determined how many contracts will be signed.

Torres emphasized that the contract reviews have been conducted even before Capital Hill lifted a hiring freeze in government.

The government's 2015 budget currently has allocations for 50 additional positions. Torres said these positions will be allocated to priority agencies such as the police and tax collection agency.

The government needs to beef up its manpower, according to a recent transition report.

The report said the entry of investors in the gaming and tourism industries would necessitate the administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos to look into increasing the government's bureaucracy, especially staffing at the Division of Customs and other revenue collections-related agencies.

This was one of the recommendations cited by the Committee on Transition when it recently made public the summary of its findings and recommendations.

"With the future growth brought upon by the casino industry, customs enforcement and revenue collections-related positions need [to] be increased to assure that compliance is met and revenues are collected," it reads.

The transition committee also recommended that the Department of Public Safety recruit more policemen and certain government agencies to hire their own attorneys.

"In addition, more police officers will need to be hired as well as other governmental services that are expected to serve this new industry. Several government departments and agencies including the Division of Revenue and Taxation, Division of Customs Service, Procurement & Supply, and others have expressed the need for access to legal counsels on legal issues affecting their job responsibilities," the report said.

It also found out that in general, the government, which has been criticized for being bloated, is now actually understaffed.

In addition, the transition committee report also proposed that government seriously look into increasing the salaries of civil servants.

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FHB seeks to deposit disputed $224,558 with clerk of court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saying it is a mere stakeholder, First Hawaiian Bank has asked the federal court to allow it to deposit with the clerk of court $224,558.71 in a savings account that is being disputed by a company's shareholders and has dragged the bank into the lawsuit.

Once the disputed funds are deposited with the clerk of court, First Hawaiian Bank wants the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order that the bank be dropped from the lawsuit initiated by Universal Group Development Inc. (Saipan).

The bank, through counsel Richard L. Johnson, pointed out Friday that Rule 17 of its deposit accounts rules and regulations give the bank a contractual right under the circumstances presented in this case to deposit with the court the funds in the account.

Johnson said Rule 17 of the regulations also provide the bank the right to ask the court to resolve conflicting claims on the account and over the right to manage and receive the proceeds of the account, and to recover attorneys' fees and costs incurred.

In its cross-claim interpleader filed Friday, the bank named as cross-defendants Wanzhong Yu, Mingnan Jin, and Jinwei Guo.

Interpleader refers to a civil procedure that allows a plaintiff to initiate a lawsuit in order to compel two or more other parties to litigate a dispute.

Universal Group is suing its former president and shareholder, Yu, for conversion and First Hawaiian Bank for breach of contract. Universal Group alleged that Yu and the bank blocked the company from gaining access to $225,000 of its own funds from a business savings account.

In his reply, Yu maintains that he is still president of the company and that he was indeed detained in China for 22 months caused by political influence exerted by his former business partners.

Jin and Guo are claiming that they are the officers and directors of Universal Group, and that Guo is now the sole shareholder.

In its interpleader, First Hawaiian Bank asked the court to dismiss with prejudice Universal Group's claims against the bank.

Johnson also asked the court to restrain Yu, Jin, and Guo from instituting any action against the bank regarding the funds in the account.

Johnson wants the court to determine which, if any, of the three cross defendants are entitled to manage and received the funds in the account.

The lawyer requested the court to require the three to settle between themselves their rights to control, manage and receive the funds in the account.

The bank also seeks to recover its attorney's fees and costs, using the funds in the account.

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INOS

From Page 1

ing my well-being. It is only fitting that I let you know what is going on," Inos said in the statement.

According to Inos, he has been "interned at the Commonwealth Health Center for what the doctors were calling symptoms of pneumonia."

"Because of the need to make sure that the treatment I have been given alleviates those symptoms, the doctors held me back, and I have complied with their orders," he said.

The governor cited the "excellent services provided by our very own doctors, nurses, and CHCC staff have been nothing but superb. I am well, recovering, and anxious to be back at the office."

The governor also cited the efforts of his second-in-command on Capital Hill.

"Furthermore, I want to assure you that the operational and delivery of government services continue on a daily basis. I am most pleased by Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres' initiatives to take on some of the public functions of the office while I am away for the past few days," Inos said.

On the issue of new Cabinet appointees, Inos said, "Members of the Cabinet will be announced soon so that *bona fide* leadership for the departments and agencies will be assured. The transition period is not an easy process as it involves the review of past performances, current goals, and opportunities for each of these agencies moving forward."

"I appreciate all your thoughts and prayers, and please rest assured that I am okay," Inos added.

The governor, according to his top aide, has been doing official work while recovering from an illness.

Acting press secretary Ivan A. Blanco told reporters that the governor has been signing proclamations and doing official duties while in recovery.

"He needs rest," Blanco said, when asked about the governor's current condition.

He said he recently talked with the governor over the phone, describing Inos' voice as sounding "okay."

Blanco, however, said there is no definite schedule yet as to when Inos will return to Capital Hill.

"As soon as it becomes official, we will inform the media," he said.

In an earlier interview, Torres said he "is not acting [governor] in any way" and he is just "doing [his] duties" such as going to proclamation signings and making speeches on behalf of the governor. Inos still has the final say when it comes day-to-day operations, Torres said.

Torres also said he is in frequent communication with the governor while Inos is in the hospital. "I have actually been in frequent communication with the governor. While he has been recuperating in the hospital, we have had several productive conversations regarding key Cabinet positions, the eventual lifting of the government hiring freeze, and on critical legislative items that have been forwarded to him," Torres said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Inos was absent when Philippine Consul General to Guam Marciano De Borja made a recent visit to Capital Hill.

Torres, instead of Inos, also attended the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The governor also didn't act on a bill creating the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services, failing to either sign or veto it, leading to the bill's enactment into law.

Inos has always been open about his health condition, earlier revealing that he's been receiving dialysis thrice a week.

Shortly after returning from a routine checkup in the Philippines in early November last year, Inos disclosed that his medical leave to Manila was for a follow up to a bypass heart surgery he had in 2006.

Blanco has said he and the rest of the Inos administration is appreciative of the concern of the community and asked for the public to continue to pray for the governor's health.

CUC

From Page 1

ing the disconnection of non-essential CHCC utility services.

Last Jan. 20, Wiseman reiterated the order in issuing a preliminary injunction prohibiting CUC from disconnecting any utility services provided to CHCC or at the Commonwealth Health Center until the resolution of their dispute.

Sirok said that, as of Feb. 1, 2015, CHCC owes CUC $1.28 million for utility services for the months of October, November, and December 2014.

Sirok said as of Feb. 1, 2015, CHCC owes CUC a total of $14.69 million in unpaid utility services and late fees.

"These unpaid billings affect the ability of [CUC] to operate and provide utility services to the public," the lawyer said.

Sirok said the court should find CHCC to be in contempt for the failure to comply with the court orders.

"As a consequence of this contempt, the utility should now be allowed to disconnect utility services to the Commonwealth Health Center," Sirok said.

CUC sued CHCC in December 2013 to collect utility services in the amount of $9,690,875, together with pre-judgment interest. It was reported last year that the hospital owes CUC $11 million in past due accounts.

Last May 12, CHCC, through the Office of the Attorney General, filed a motion for temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction. CHCC asked the court to restrain CUC from disconnecting utility services for failure to pay what they claim were and are exorbitant and illegal late charges.

Last May 21, Wiseman granted CHCC's request for a TRO.

Wiseman heard the motion for preliminary injunction last May 29.

JOEL D. PINAROC

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres poses with government officials, proponents, and attendees during a recent proclamation designating February as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month" held on Capital Hill on Tuesday.

Proclamation seeks to raise public awareness of teen dating violence

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The government has proclaimed February as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month" on Tuesday on Capital Hill, to raise the profile of a little known but emerging concern in the Commonwealth.

Nikita Cabrera, chairperson of the Family Violence Task Force, said that teen dating violence is an "ongoing issue" and it has been happening "way back before laws where even passed."

"[Teen dating violence] has been a silent issue," Cabrera told reporters, adding that the task force is "involving as many community members as possible."

Cabrera said people don't often read about cases of teen dating violence in newspapers or hear about it, but it is happening and "awareness helps us stop this."

She said the task force hopes it will only be a matter of time before "people realize that this is not acceptable."

Cabrera said the number of cases of teen dating violence may not be easy to come by or made public because in most cases, minors are involved.

She said the Family Violence Task Force is composed of multiple agencies, including the police, to take on the issue of violence. Depending on the age groups, the coalition might take different approaches on tackling violence, she said.

Cabrera said the Family Violence Task Force is coordinating with the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Sexual Violence, which will soon announce the activities lined up this month.

"February is just the start," Cabrera said, adding that the coalition plans to continue doing awareness drives throughout the year.

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres pledged the support of the government in addressing teen dating violence, adding his office is "always open" to anyone who needs help.

Torres presided over the proclamation signing on behalf of Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Public warned of hazardous surf today

A large north northwest swell produced by strong winds associated with a shear line will cause hazardous surf across the Mariana Islands through today, Wednesday, according to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The agency said that fresh to strong northeast winds along with large north northwest swell associated with a shear line will cause hazardous conditions for the operation of small craft across the local waters this morning.

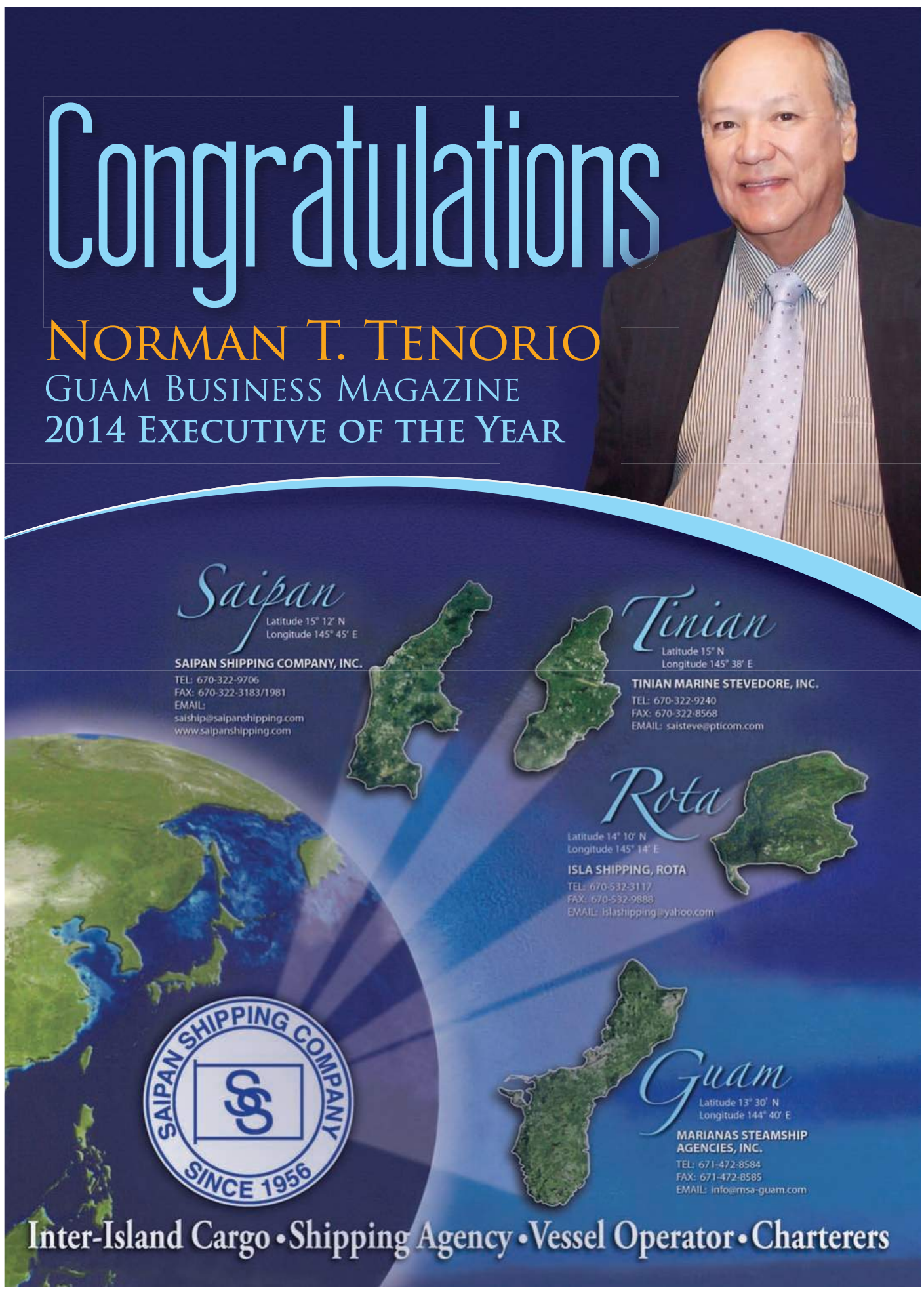
A high surf advisory remains in effect until 4pm today.

Hazardous surf of 9 to 11 feet along north facing shores and 8 to 10 feet along west facing shores will persist this morning but hazardous surf should gradually subside later in the day.

A small craft advisory remains in effect today.

Northeast winds of 15 to 25 knots and combined seas of 9 to 11 feet will continue this morning. Operating small craft under these conditions is hazardous.

The public, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. Do not venture near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and west facing reefs as rip currents will be life threatening. ***(PR)***



Experience Mt. Tapochau like you've never before

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The bumpy roads and the hidden sights around Mt. Tapochau are made more accessible on a Let's Go Polaris RZR. *Saipan Tribune* recently took a ride on one of these high-powered ATVs up to the island's highest point, for a rollicking, muddy, and fun outdoor experience.

Tan Holdings' Ed Arriola took the wheel for this media trip, making sure our harnesses, helmets, and hands were in the right spot for the safest ride possible.

On top of this, a short lesson on safety was given in a classroom-like part of the Let's Go Lower Base office. A tour guide played a video, explaining safety tips, road rules, and some of the sights we'd eventually see.

DENNIS B. CHAN

Tan Holdings' Ed Arriola chats with a biker during a break in the bamboo forest around the Mt. Tapochao area.

A Polaris RZR does pack some power, and Mt. Tapochau is known for some treacherous roads—but don't worry, the vehicle is well-equipped with multiple harness and bars, and the accommodating Let's Go staff makes sure you are kept comfortable, fit, and safe for the journey.

Don't stick your hand or lean an arm on the side of the vehicle is one tip Arriola and other guides will share with you.

Once secure, we were off. And just a few seconds out from their Lower Base garage, you could already feel the power these vehicles were packing. It seemed to surge from under you like a go-kart on steroids as we drove up Capital Hill.

We left paved road soon enough and rolled onto some of Mt. Tapochau's rocky and bumpy roads.

And while Arriola was sure to remind us that these vehicles could get to the top of the mountain in less than a couple of minutes, Let's Go tour guides make sure that doesn't happen, he said, out of concern for the residents in the area.

Let's Go tour guides are respectful of the people in the area, he said, and also are strict on customer safety, making sure that customer drivers are licensed and each patron-driven vehicle is led and followed by one of their tour guides.

But before the top, we took a trip down a side that cut through *tangan tangan* trees and some cold, cold, cold mud puddles.

How did we know they were cold? Well, Arriola asked to see if were down to splashing through one. We were.

We sped through a puddle and were soon wet and laughing afterwards—but no regrets! Mountain juice! That's what you call an outdoor adventure.

The ride stopped at the beginning of a bamboo forest; where the trees seemed to reach out to touch each other, forming a beautiful, sturdy canopy above and granting us some cool, cool shade.

We stopped for some pictures, noticing a ladder lying on a path with roots and grass growing over like some industrial fossil from generations ago.

We took more pictures among the trees taller than some several NBA centers combined… Awed at the serene, calm feeling we got in the company of these deeply rooted and entrenched, breathing and living things.

It's a wonderful spot on island all should see.

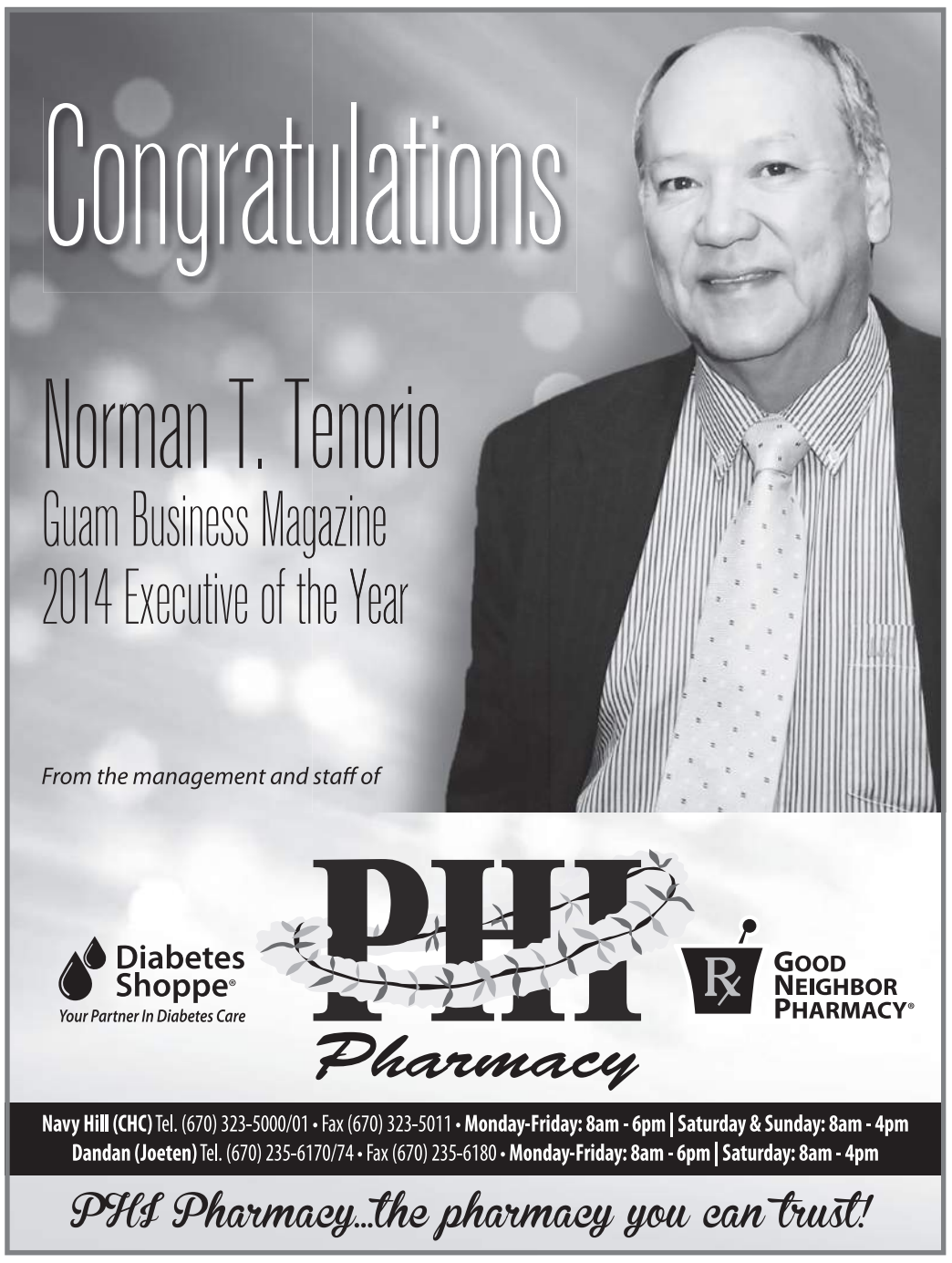
Then we were off, back out the road, and to the top of a misty Mt. Tapochau.

It had been raining that day but the view up there and the feeling of getting to the top felt just as good as ever.

Overall, it was a great experience, and for all the potholes, bumps, and curving roads, also a safe one.

The Mt. Tapochau ride is only a small part of what the Let's Go tour experience can offer, as more extensive trips to the northern and southern parts of the island are available.

So why not give it a try? The ride is a secure and fun, thrilling and powerful, and will have you experiencing this beautiful island in a way you've never.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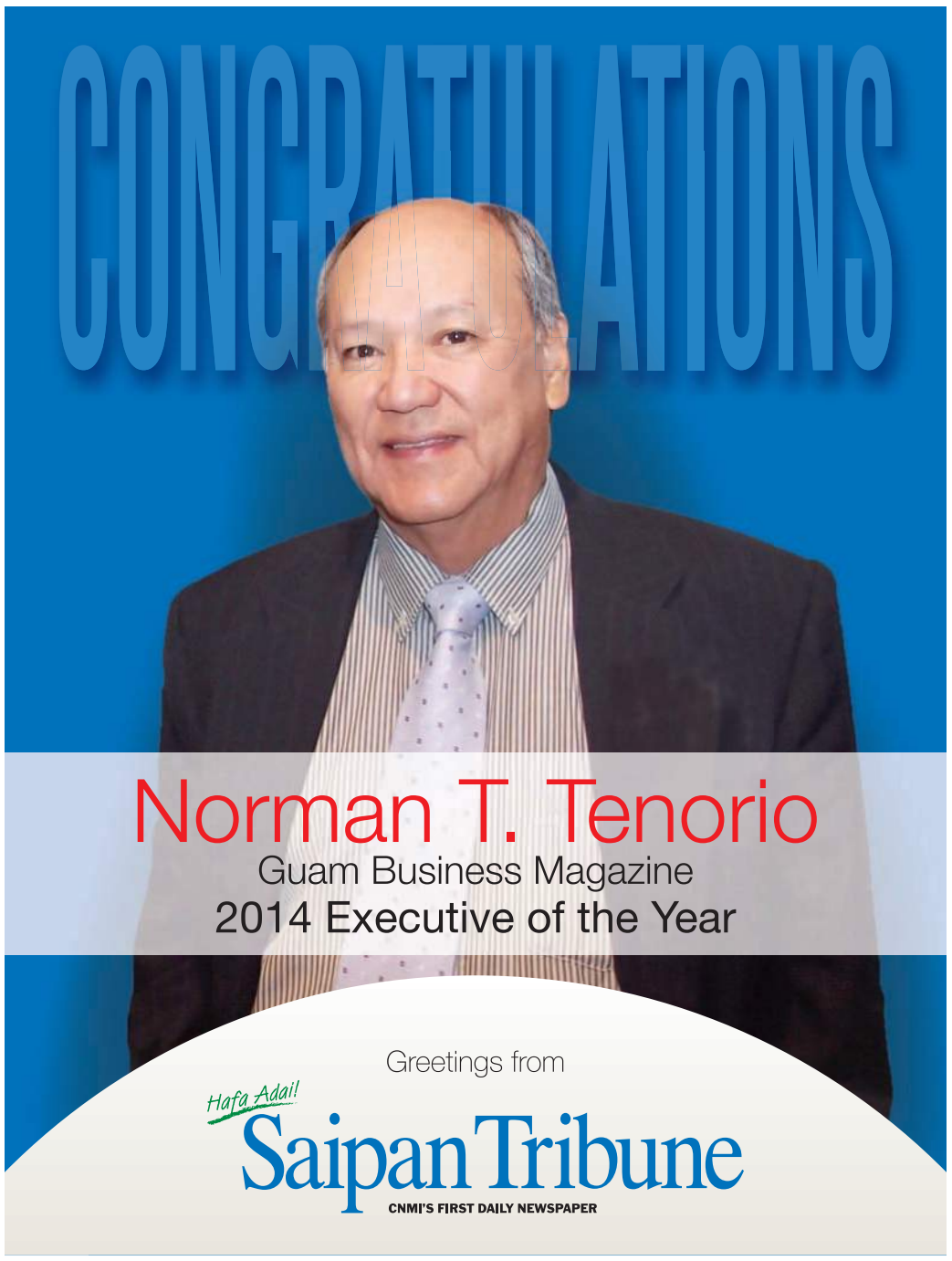
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2014 GUAM BUSINESS MAGAZINE EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR: NORMAN T. TENORIO

‘Success comes to those who take calculated risks’

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2014 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year Norman Tenorio is joined by First Hawaiian Bank regional director Laura Dacanay, second left, Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, third front left, Glimpses publisher Maureen Maratita, second right, 2014 BWOY Shirley Sablan, far right, family, and friends.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The 2014 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year has this one simple advice to businessmen or businesswomen who would like to follow his trailblazing path: Don’t be afraid to take calculated risks.

“Success comes to those who take calculated risks. Do not be afraid to fail, as failures result in lessons that build knowledge and strength,” said Norman T. Tenorio, managing director of Joeten Enterprises Inc. and president and CEO of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. on Saipan.

Of course, taking calculated risks wasn’t the only reason Tenorio has enjoyed the success he has had in 40 years in business.

“Above all, be humble, honest, wise, and be fair to both your employees and customers,” said the son of local retail business pioneers Jose C. “Joeten” and Soledad “DaiDai” Tenorio.

Tenorio said he began his career immediately after receiving his business degree from Marquette University in 1974.

“I immediately returned home to help with our family business where I found myself working from the bottom up. But before I left for my education in the states to complete my high school years, I fondly remember my scope of responsibilities. My parents were smart in giving me the full experience in the front line in order for me to better understand operations at a very early age to be able to make effective business decisions at the management level,” he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2014 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year Norman Tenorio and his wife, Keli.

Another secret to becoming a successful businessman is taking no short cuts, Tenorio said.

“There is no specific formula for success. But to stay ahead of the game, you need to take risks, adapt to change, embrace teamwork, and set your standards high.”

He said he is proud to have garnered the *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year plum.

“The awardee of the Executive of the Year should be someone who has achieved a high level of success in business, have taken crucial roles in organizations affecting government, and one who has made significant contributions to his community. I believe I was selected because I have all these and so much more.”

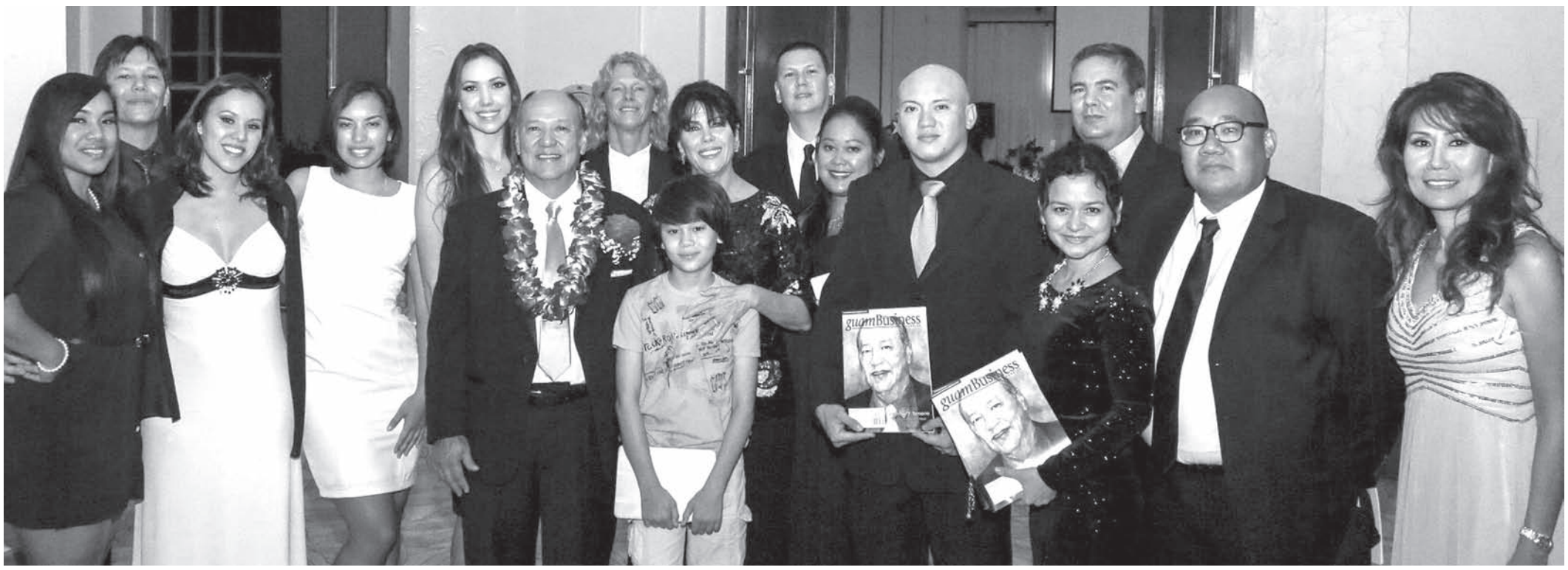
What makes Tenorio’s award more special is he’s the second executive from the conglomerate to be hailed for such an acclaim as 2014 also saw Shirley Sablan win the First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year. Sablan is the executive vice president and general manager of Pacific Insurance Underwriters Inc.

Continued on Next Page

2014 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year Norman Tenorio, center standing, is joined by friends and supporters during the fundraiser gala.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2014 Businesswoman of the Year Shirley Sablan, center standing, is joined by, from left to right, Tokio Marine chief underwriting officer Efren Manuel, Nanbo Insurance Guam general manager Brent Butler, Guahan Insurance Services president Luckie Sakamoto, and Nanbo Insurance comptroller Chito Tangonan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2014 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year Norman Tenorio, sixth from left, is joined by family and friends after the fundraiser gala event held on Jan. 17, 2015, at Hyatt Regency Guam.

From Page 8

"The BWOY and the EOY in 2014 were both awarded to both Shirley and myself, respectively. Words cannot explain how proud I am of our company and our accomplishments. This award represents the entire region in Micronesia, which includes the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam, but I am certain the people of the CNMI share the joys of our wins, as it is rare that both awards are given to executives from the CNMI in the same year. This would not be possible if it weren't for the support and love of our family, friends, patrons, and business associates," he said.

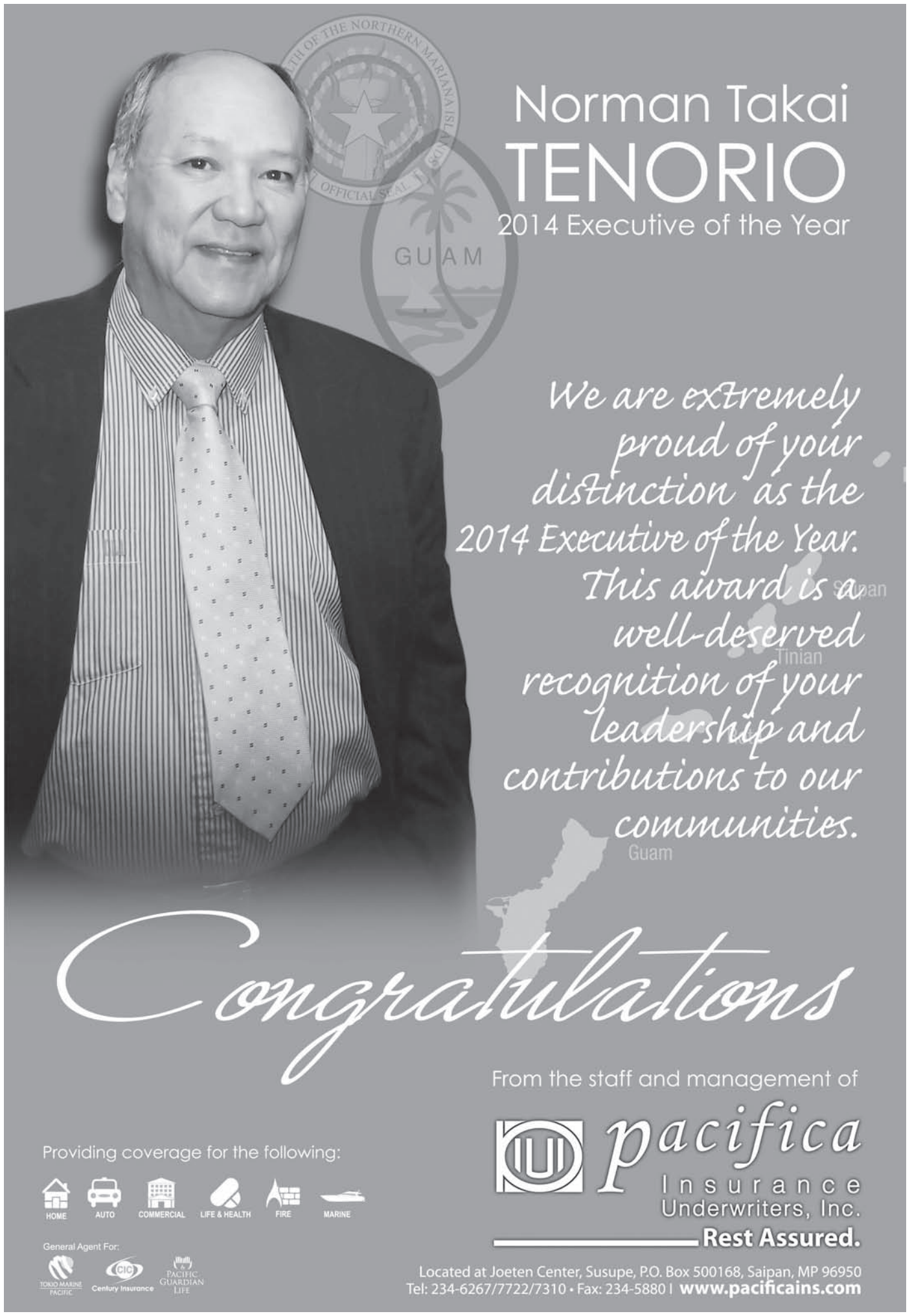
Tenorio is also president of Tropical Instant Press Inc.; secretary/treasurer of Saipan Shipping Co.; president of Saipan Stevedore; president of Advance Carrier and is on the boards of directors for Guahan Insurance Services and Nanbo Guam Ltd., which does business as Nanbo Insurance.

He is a trustee of the Joeten DaiDai Foundation and also makes charitable contributions to various sports events, the Marianas Islands Nature Alliance, and the American Red Cross, among other organizations.

Jose C. "Joeten" and Soledad "DaiDai" Tenorio started Joeten Enterprises in 1949. The company is now a conglomerate that includes Joeten Motors Co.; J.C. Tenorio Enterprise grocery market, department store and restaurants; Joeten Ace Hardware; the Joeten Superstore wholesale club; Marianas Management Corp.; Construction Material & Supply Inc.; Joeten Wholesale; and franchises of The Athlete's Foot and Napa Auto Parts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First Hawaiian Bank/*Guam Business Magazine* 2014 Businesswoman of the Year Shirley Sablan, seated left, is joined by Tokio Marine president Hiroyuki, Endo, center, 2012 Miss Earth Guam Sarah Filush, far right, and Docomo Pacific marketing executive Mizuri Fujii, standing.



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Congress must vote on the war against Islamic State

A puzzling aspect of President Obama's war against Islamic State, a military campaign that is now almost six months old, is his attitude toward congressional approval for the mission.

In a speech in September, Obama insisted that he already possessed all the legal authority he needed to launch airstrikes against the group in Iraq and Syria, though he added vaguely: "I welcome congressional support for this effort." But in his State of the Union address, he shifted gears and called on Congress "to show the world that we are united in this mission" by passing a resolution to authorize the use of force against Islamic State.

Yet the White House hasn't provided Congress with language for such a resolution (saying it wants to get input from Congress first). Nor has it enunciated a clear position on what should happen to two previous Authorizations for Use of Military Force that it has unconvincingly cited as justification for the war against Islamic State.

Faced with the administration's passive-aggressive attitude, Congress should exercise its constitutional responsibility by authorizing and placing limits on that war. A bill introduced last week by Rep. Adam B. Schiff, a California Democrat, similar to one he proposed in the last Congress, does both.

The Schiff resolution would authorize military action against Islamic State for three years, but only in Iraq and Syria. Military action could not include the deployment of "ground forces in a combat role," though military advisors and special operations forces would be allowed. That retroactively ratifies Obama's decision to send 3,000 advisors to Iraq.

Schiff's bill also would immediately repeal the 2002 resolution allowing military action against Iraq (the authorization for President George W. Bush's invasion of that country) and would sunset after three years the 2001 resolution authorizing force against the planners of the Sept. 11 attacks. The latter has proved particularly malleable, serving as the Obama administration's legal justification for actions against a variety of militant groups as well as the targeted killing in Yemen of Anwar Awlaki, a U.S. citizen.

Given the liberties the Bush and Obama administrations have taken with the existing congressional authorizations, Schiff is right to include time limits and to codify Obama's insistence that he doesn't intend to commit "boots on the ground" to this conflict. Nothing prevents Obama or his successors from seeking additional authority later.

Even without the deployment of ground forces, the U.S. is embarked on a large-scale and long-term military campaign to "degrade and ultimately destroy" Islamic State. It's unconscionable that Congress has not yet voted on this commitment. It must expeditiously do so, with or without a script from the White House.

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I'M STEPPING ASIDE FOR SOME NEW LEADER WHOSE FACE MAY NOT BE AS WELL KNOWN.
ROMNEY 2016
KEVIN SIERS ©2016 CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Children suffer and die in Gaza. Who notices?

By NAJLA SHAWA
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In the Gaza Strip, the main daily activity of every family is to try to secure and maximize the use of energy. Even the lives of "privileged" families—those whose houses weren't damaged or destroyed in the recent war and who have some money to pay inflated prices and middlemen—are affected.

Power is cut up to 18 hours per day. When there is electricity, we rush to recharge all our batteries, heat water, operate the water filters, check the fuel level in the electrical generator, check the fuel level in the car and so on. Most lack these basics. When the power is out, we need to find other ways to stay warm, to cook, to work, to live.

My husband and I have been waiting for several weeks to refill our cooking-gas cylinders. Given the insecurity of life in Gaza, we'd like to have some reserves, but distributors aren't able to respond to the demand. Israel limits the quantity of cooking gas that enters the Gaza Strip, and it's simply not enough. We have to get on a list and wait for our turn. Even before the recent, historic winter storm hit, we couldn't find any to refill more than one cylinder for cooking. It took effort and connections to get another one refilled so that we could keep our newborn daughter warm during the storm.

As parents and as human beings, our hearts ache for the Palestinian children who have minimum shelter and are hardly ever warm and dry. Five months after the cease-fire that ended Israel's 50-day assault, there are still 100,000 people sheltering at designated United Nations schools or making do in their ruined homes.

During the war, we thought things couldn't get worse. Now we realize they can.

Thousands of families suffered from cold caused by Huda, a storm that brought historic low temperatures. In a region known for its moderate climate, the bad weather hit while thousands were displaced in the Gaza Strip, Syria and elsewhere.

On the second day of the storm, we heard the terrible news. Two-month-old Rahaf Abu Assi from Khan Younis had been in the warmest room of the family's war-damaged home. Her mother came to check on her while the family sat in a part of the house that hardly had a roof. The baby started to turn blue and showed trouble breathing. The family rushed Rahaf to the hospital, but it was too late. The cold had blocked her bronchial tubes. At least three more infants died of cold that week. Adel Al Lahham, 1 month old, had been living in a makeshift, tin-sheet-covered home in Khan Younis. Salma Al-Massri, 3 months old, had been living in a school used as a shelter in Beit Hanoun. The last tiny victim was 18 months old. Fadi Qudeih was in temporary caravan housing provided as humanitarian assistance, but it wasn't warm enough to sustain his life.

Israel would surely blame Hamas for these deaths. Here in Gaza, however, we blame Israel and, increasingly, governments around the world that have successfully achieved their own independence and then disregarded those still struggling for freedom.

The Gaza Strip has 1.8 million people locked into one of the most densely populated areas in the world. Israel controls the economy, natural resources and communications. It also prohibits the vast majority of Palestinians in Gaza from traveling, permitting only a small number to enter. Egypt controls the other side of the Gaza Strip, also imposing restrictions due to political tensions with Hamas.

Largely a refugee population expelled from homes and private property in what is now Israel, people here have endured three Israeli aggressions in six short years. In 2008-2009, 1,391 Palestinians were killed and 5,300 were injured. In 2012, Israeli attacks resulted in the death of 167 Palestinians. The latest assault in the summer of 2014 wrought the most damage to essential infrastructure, schools and hospitals. At least 2,139 Palestinians were killed and more than 11,000 were injured. More than 500 children were killed.

The greatest damage was to our sense of hope.

The word "reconstruction" has earned a bad reputation since the International Conference on Reconstruction in Cairo back in October. For us, "reconstruction" is like a broken promise. The U.N.-brokered agreement has not changed or eased any bit of Israel's strangulating siege on the Gaza Strip. Some people even accuse the U.N. of managing this siege rather than challenging it.

At least during the war, the international community was paying attention. Now, even though we're a "protected" population under international humanitarian law, the Gaza Strip seems to be forgotten, and the senseless deaths of our babies scarcely register with the international community.

Najla Shawa is a humanitarian worker from Gaza who wrote this for the Chicago Tribune.

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Helping our children

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

I was visiting my grandchildren the other day when the oldest boy Mikko got up and announced, "Done!" I looked up as he showed me the book (about an inch and-a-half thick) he just finished reading.

Given his young age, it was a pleasantry knowing that he and siblings are into book reading. Occasionally, their parents would take them to the bookstore to select more books to read. I've also sacrificed my allowance for this worthy venture. Literacy is important for these kids.

Recalled a purposeful classical conditioning of my youngest into the world of reading and books by showing him my favorite magazine a long time ago—*Time Magazine*—at a gift shop in Honolulu. I also took him to two other bookstores where he selected books and DVDs on reading and arithmetic that he opens up daily after class or on weekends. He could only move to the next lesson by answering every question right in the quiz. He was done in three months, materials designed for a full year.

By the time the kid was a freshman in high school he'd finished books I've read as a freshman at UOG. He breezed through it all and scored superior in his SAT scores in both reading and math. He never had to take the entrance exam when he entered the University of Texas. It's the benefit of honing his reading, writing, and basic math skills.

May I encourage you to do the same with your children? Help them with their homework in reading, writing, and arithmetic or math. Use the buddy system and make learning fun for them. That you've become a part of their daily studies is sufficient for them to know that you care about their academic progress. In the process, they get to learn what's the story in the book. Make sure you've read the materials or books in advance.

As they move into more complicated materials, they also begin to learn critical thinking, identifying what's at issue or the story, use of judgment and reasoning or analysis. For instance, we could identify a bird as having wings and flies. In using our judgment, we categorize birds as winged creatures with feathers. What about if we come across a fruit bat that also flies? We descend into reasoning to discern that though it flies, it isn't a bird at all. It has a special fur, not feathers.

In brief, let's help them with their reading, language, and numbers. Imagine if they could do it in both their native tongue and English. We would have set them up to deal with challenges ahead in critical thinking. Trust me, it's humbling listening to college-educated kids articulate issues, be it the twist and turns in a literary piece or political fodder.

Illiteracy at home

Our educational institutions (PSS, NMC and trade school) have given it their best effort to ensure literacy among our young folks exiting high school.

Nonetheless, below the calm lagoon waters is a vicious undercurrent we can't see with the naked eye—illiteracy especially among those who drop out of school—kids we train for jobs in the private sector. Sad that most can't even read or solve basic math problems.

There are only so many jobs that could go around in the trades in construction work, etc. The higher paying jobs all require some semblance of literacy in the language and basic numbers or math.

But illiteracy is the fundamental problem for many of the trainees or students that requires remedial courses just to enable them to move forward.

Not sure what's the extent of this inadequacy but key players in both sectors must converge to do a realistic assessment if the NMI could factually meet federal mandate to rid itself of guest workers. I have serious doubts that it is a realistic deadline but a deadline we must deal with. It's a community problem that ranks highest on our shopping list of "problematic" issues.

Our education experts, in concert with key players, should converge to trump out this rather heavy excess baggage hailing from years of neglect. It's a long march and we could only make it to our destination beginning with the proverbial first step. Not only is there a dire need to instill literacy in language and numbers but computer literacy as well.

Let's discard intramural feud and begin collaboration in the hopeful resolution of our problems right here at home. The fiscal impotence is more that sufficient a signpost to probe and resolve over the next year or so. Must do it with a sense of vision, leadership and thoughtful plans. Let's not fail because we've simply failed to plan.

Work is a big part of making a life

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. *She can be reached through her website at http://www.ginabarreca.com.*

"What's your goal in life?" I asked a cheerful young man at an alumni event. "I want to retire by 35" was his snappy answer.

He smiled, cocked his head as if auditioning to play George Clooney's kid brother and waited for what he clearly expected to be my delight. The line was rehearsed and he was close to 25; obviously it had played well before other audiences.

I wasn't impressed.

"Let me put it another way," I said. "From what kind of work would you like to retire?"

"Something creative. Something where my passions and my talents are showcased. I don't want some soulless, mind-numbing office job."

"Ever had an office job? Is that how you know they're all soulless?"

"I don't need to do a 9-5 to know it. Do you need to work in factory or dig ditches to know those are jobs you wouldn't want?"

He wasn't necessarily a fool, this young man, but he was either ignorant or innocent—or both. And I thought about how his family, his college and his culture had all failed him.

By encouraging him to believe in his own exceptionalism, the adults who brought him up did him a disservice: By permitting him to believe, as the old expression put it, that the world owed him a living, they might have made it much more difficult for him to earn one.

That's why, instead of searching for his vocation, he was standing on the world's platform waiting for the Fame Train to arrive. He thought all he had to do was hail it by waving his arm.

This was not the scion of an aristocratic household, either, brought up by nannies and fawned over by tutors; this was a child of the suburbs, not of the landed gentry.

Yet he made it obvious that he was meant for greater things than everyday work. He made it clear he thought of tedious work as something done by others: by the ungifted, the ordinary and the common.

His mistake about work is what's common.

My father worked in a small family factory with his brothers, brothers-in-law and a sister. When the place couldn't compete with larger companies, they went out of business and, at 60, my father started working retail.

When he very ill at the end of his life, I asked my father if he had any unfulfilled wishes, things he secretly would've liked to have done.

"I wish I could've been a mechanic," he shrugged. "I would've liked to work with cars."

His last dreams weren't about voyages or extravagances. They were about what other kinds of hard work he would've done and how he might have liked it a little more. He would have preferred working on automobile engines to working on sewing machines.

People once talked about the dignity of labor. Now the word "labor" is usually associated with birth and "dignity" is usually associated with aging and death.

Birth and death are serious occasions, true, but work is also a big deal, or it should be. You spend more time at work than you do birthing and dying if you're only a little bit lucky.

How can you tell that being able to get a job and going to work is important? For much of history, women and those marginalized by the culture were prohibited from doing it.

Women, people of color, the very poor or those seen as being of the "wrong" religion were barred from being able to walk through the gates and apply for work.

These jobs remained not as much out of reach as they were out of bounds. Laws had to be passed so that hard-working people would be permitted the privilege of being able to get them.

There were a lot of things I wanted to say to the graduate (including, of course, "One word: plastics") but all I said was that getting a job he didn't like would still be better than hanging around hoping to be discovered. Work is an essential part of life's conversation. If you sit at the grown-ups' table, it should be an experience you are able to discuss first hand.

It's OK if those hands are a little rough.

A higher gasoline tax would throttle back economic growth

By TIM PHILLIPS
Los Angeles Times

Tim Phillips is the president of Americans for Prosperity. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Falling gasoline prices—are they good or bad?

Ask any American consumer and the answer will be a resounding "good." Gas prices have dropped by more than a dollar in the last three months. This translates into a de facto tax cut of at least $125 billion, equivalent to 2.4 million middle-class family incomes. For the average family, the savings this year could be $750 or more. The middle class hasn't seen comparable economic relief in years.

Apparently some politicians in Washington think that's bad. They have concocted a scheme to undo that tax cut by slapping higher taxes on gasoline.

The list of tax-happy politicians is growing longer by the day. In Congress, both Democrats and usually anti-tax Republicans have lined up in support of a higher gas tax, arguing that it could fund any number of big-ticket items on Congress' to-do list. They've been joined by prominent pundits on both sides of the aisle. Their proposals vary, with some ranging from 10 or 20 cents to a dollar or more per gallon.

Yet no gas tax increase, big or small, should be on the table. There are many reasons it is a terrible idea for the consumer.

First, higher gas prices mean higher prices on goods. Groceries, clothes, electronics, manufactured goods are all mainly transported to your local store via truck. So when gas prices go up, so does the cost of transporting those goods. This invariably leads to higher prices, not just at the pump but at every stop on your daily or weekly errand runs.

It isn't just consumers who think that lower gas prices are good. Economists agree as well. Lower gas prices mean more economic growth. When you and I have more money to spend—which we do right now, thanks to falling gas prices—we usually spend it. That's why economists now predict that lower gas prices could add as much as half a percentage point of growth to the economy this year. A gas tax would only stymie or prevent those gains.

Moreover, such growth would create jobs and opportunities in the years to come, the keys to a strong and lasting economic recovery. No wonder the chief executive of Caterpillar has said that falling gas prices are creating "the kind of stimulus package that the Federal Reserve or Congress could never do."

Lower gas prices help the middle class and the poor most of all. The middle class spends more on gasoline than any other income group. Households with less than $50,000 in income spend, on average, a fifth of their wages on energy. Some economists estimate that the average family is saving $100 a month on gas.

Those savings are even more noteworthy when you consider that family income is still lower than it was six years ago. Now, thanks to falling gas prices, the middle class and the poor finally have more money in their pockets.

Why would Congress jeopardize these gains with a higher gas tax? The most frequently repeated reason is that it would restore fiscal solvency to the Highway Trust Fund, which has been steadily losing money for years. But a higher tax isn't the solution to this problem. Instead, Congress should direct the trust fund's money to be spent solely on highways, rather than on the plethora of non-highway projects that it currently funds. If Congress made this simple change, the fund's financial problems would be all but fixed overnight; it would be 98 percent solvent.

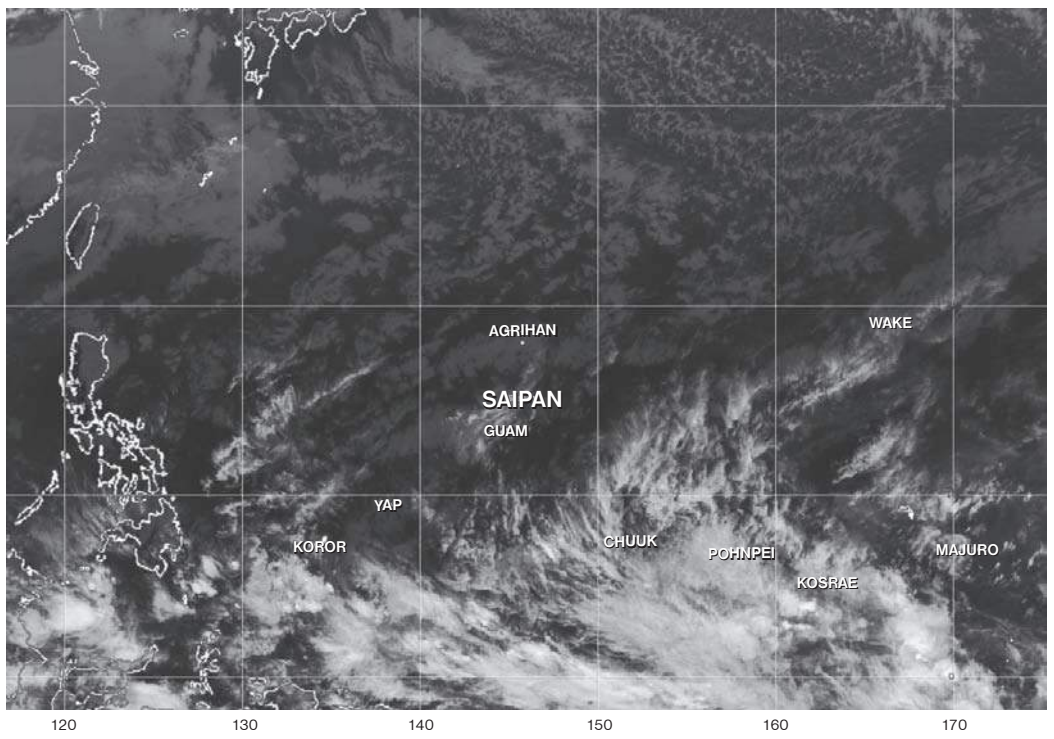
Surely our politicians should reorder their own spending priorities before slapping higher taxes on the rest of us. They've spent the last six years over-regulating and over-taxing the economy, thereby preventing the recovery that the American people were promised but largely haven't seen. Now that falling gas prices are contributing to real growth, politicians in Washington should take their foot off the gas tax pedal.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87º ▼76º	▲87º ▼76º	▲87º ▼76º	▲87º ▼76º	▲86º ▼76º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends west-southwestward from 25N180E to 5N137E. Then continues westward to end near just south of Mindanao near 5N126E. Dense stratocumulus clouds and patchy rain are found along and northwest of the shear line and cold front to near 25N. A near equatorial trough extends across much of southern Micronesia from 3N130E through 2N173E to end near EQ177E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of a long line from 6N130E to 6N165E to 2N171E. This includes Kosrae and southern waters of Koror, Chuuk and Pohnpei. An old shear line extends southwestward from 18N180E to near Chuuk at 7N152E then continues westward to finally end near 6N149E. Clouds and patchy rain are found along and up to 120 miles northwest of this boundary.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲80	▼76
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼78
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼66
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼22
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼53
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼70
London	Cloudy	▲42	▼33
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼67
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼55
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼65
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲28	▼20
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼37
Paris	Cloudy	▲38	▼32
Pusan	Showers	▲49	▼28
Rome	Rain	▲52	▼48
Salem	Rain	▲49	▼40
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲43	▼23
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼36
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲39	▼29

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
8:48 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
7:34 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:19 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:31 PM	6:35 AM
Thursday	7:19 PM	7:16 AM
Friday	8:06 PM	7:55 AM
Saturday	8:52 PM	8:33 AM
Sunday	9:39 PM	9:11 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Dailly via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

CUC lowers LEAC charge due to drop in fuel prices

»Consumers benefit as market declines

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announces a reduction in the LEAC fuel charge pass-through. Due to continued decline in average fuel prices, CUC is able to reduce the fuel-charge by 18.65 percent and consumers will see a drop in power bills of about 3.66¢ per kWh effective with their February usage.

The current LEAC fuel-charge of $.19617 per kWh will reduce to $.15959 per kWh. A residential account using 500 kWh will see a decrease of $18 per month.

LEAC stands for Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause and is one of the two components of a power bill.

The LEAC is used for fuel purchases, while the second rate component is the electric base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt servicing.

In July 2014, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission granted the utility the ability to adjust the LEAC charge depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" or MOPS monthly pricing equals or exceeds 4.5 percent of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the LEAC charge. The CPUC conducts periodic reviews of CUC's fuel charges to ensure that consumers pay no more or less than the actual cost of fuel.

CNMI consumers have experienced almost 50 percent decline in the LEAC since mid-2014. Obviously, this is great news as every dollar saved on fuel directly translates into lower power bills, which means more spending power for consumers here in the CNMI. ***(CUC)***

Judge places former Sports and Rec official under house arrest

»Ex-DPW secretary, father of defendant, serves as third-party custodian

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ordered yesterday the release of former Division of Sports and Recreation deputy director John Benavente Reyes Jr. to his father, who will serve as his third-party custodian.

In granting Reyes' motion to modify the bail, Camacho placed the 36-year-old Reyes under house arrest and required him to provide a map to his residence.

No money was required to post, but CNMI and federal officers are allowed to check if Reyes is at home.

Arraignment will be on Feb. 23 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato, counsel for Reyes, moved to modify the $2,250 cash bail and recommended defendant's father, former Department of Public Works secretary Juan S. Reyes Jr., as third-party custodian.

Sato asked the court to modify the bail to allow Reyes' release upon posting $225 or 10 percent of the bail amount.

Assistant attorney general Emily Cohen appeared as counsel for the government.

Police arrested Reyes on Friday morning for alleged possession of methamphetamine or "ice" and for reckless driving.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report she was driving along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa when she saw a blue car by Viva Poker heading north on the outer lane.

The blue car, being driven by Reyes, accelerated and made a sudden switch to the inner lane, cutting off a vehicle in front. It then again made a sudden switch to the outer lane, causing a near collision with the same vehicle on the outer lane.

The Lexus again switched back to the inner lane, nearly hitting the front of a pickup truck.

Pangelinan followed Reyes' car and, with the assistance of other responding police officers, pulled over the vehicle.

Another detective allegedly found in Reyes' front pocket a small ziplock bag that contained a white crystalline substance that later tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine or "ice."

Last Oct. 10, police arrested Reyes for alleged possession of "ice and marijuana at a parking lot of a store in San Jose. The case is still pending in court.

Reyes Jr. and another then-employee of the Division of Sports and Recreation were arrested on March 30, 2012, on allegations that they burglarized and stole over $6,000 worth of equipment and other instructional materials from several classrooms and storage rooms at the Garapan Elementary School.

Reyes' father also served as his third-party custodian in the GES burglary case.

Then-Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos, however, dismissed the charges against Reyes and co-defendant after the prosecution moved to dismiss the case.

In November 2013, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Reyes to three months in prison for shattering the driver's side of a car with a baseball bat and assaulting the driver, Derek Reyes, at a stop light on Beach Road, Garapan on Sept. 2, 2012.

Saipan-Tinian ferry on Feb. 13-15

In support of the Tinian Turquoise Blue and 11th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival this month, the Marianas Visitors Authority has chartered a ferry to run between Saipan and Tinian on Feb. 13-15, 2015.

For $35/round trip, space is still available on the Super Emerald departing Tinian on Feb. 13 at 8:30pm, departing Saipan on Feb. 14 at 10am, departing Tinian on Feb. 14 at 6:30pm, and departing Saipan on Feb. 15 at 10am and 7pm. Additional departure times have already been fully booked. For more information regarding reservations, contact Ryan Calvo at 664-3200 or email at rcalvo@mymarianas.com.

"The MVA will again charter a ferry this month for those in Saipan who want to join the festivities and triathlon in Tinian, or those traveling from Tinian to Saipan for other activities," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "It's a great deal, especially for Tinian residents who might want to do some shopping on Saipan."

Payment may be made at the MVA office on Beach Road in San Jose or on Tinian.

The Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held at Kammer Beach within walking distance of the seaport and downtown San Jose. Available hotels on island include Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Fleming Hotel, Lion House, Lorilyn's, and Street Motel. Some hotels offer airport shuttle, as well. Air service is provided by Freedom Air and Star Marianas.

The event is also co-sponsored by Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. Activities will again include cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dances, and Hapi the Clown. Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the *umang* (hermit crab) races, join numerous sports activities (including beach volleyball and dragon boat races), or join the *donni sali* eating competition, itself. Festival times will be from 2pm to 11pm on Feb. 14 and from 11am to 11pm on Feb. 15.

The 15th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon will be held on Feb. 14 at 7:30am, offering a 1.5K swim, 40K swim, and 10K run. The reef swim consists of three courses: 1.5K, 3K, and 4.5K. Applications are available under the Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

Tinian is also accessible within minutes of Saipan via airplane or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam. For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 433-9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES

By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the LEAC charge depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" or MOPS monthly pricing equals or exceeds 4.5% of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the LEAC charge. Due to a decline in average fuel prices, CUC is able to reduce the fuel-charge by 18.65%. Accordingly, the LEAC rate has decreased from $0.19617 per kWh to **$0.15959** per kWh effective **February 1, 2015**.

BASE RATES

		RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
1	Monthly Customer Charge	$ 7.00	$ 10.00	$ 10.00	$ 9.06
2	Base Rates Per kWh:				
	KWH LEVELS				
	1) 1 to 350	$ 0.0210	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	2) 351 to 1,200	$ 0.0970	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	3) 1,201 and over	$ 0.1580	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
3	Infrastructure Surcharge Per kWh -- all usage	$ 0.0210	$ 0.0210	$ 0.0210	$ 0.0210
4	Public Law 16-7 Credit (Rebate) Per kWh -- all usage	$ (0.0230)	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Municipal Pumping

LEVELIZED ENERGY ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE (LEAC) RATE

	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
New LEAC Rate (Effective 02/01/15)	**$ 0.15959**	**$ 0.15959**	**$ 0.15959**	**$ 0.15959**
Previous LEAC Rate	$ 0.19617	$ 0.19617	$ 0.19617	$ 0.19617

*Municipal Pumping

PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF

Availability: Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.
Energy Charge: The energy charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable electric base rate and LEAC rate.
Fixture Charge: See below.

	FIXTURE TYPE	WATTS	KWH/MONTH	FIXTURE CHARGE PER MONTH
1	Long Arm	250	101	$ 11.67
2	Short Arm	175	71	$ 8.33
3	LED	140	57	$ 10.83

ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES

1	Late Charge (monthly)	1% of Past Due
2	NSF Check / Returned Check Charge	$ 40.00
3	Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments)*	$ 1.50
4	Unauthorized Connection*	$ 550.00
5	Reconnection at the Pole*	$ 200.00
6	Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)*	$ 210.00
7	Disconnection Notice	$ 15.00
8	Meter Change Out	$ 95.00
9	New Service - Single Phase	$ 135.00
10	Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)	$ 90.00
11	Meter Test - Single Phase	$ 75.00
12	Meter Test - Three Phase	$ 110.00
13	Disconnection at the Meter	$ 45.00
14	Reconnection at the Meter	$ 60.00

Non-Rate Fees Effective 04/17/14
*Non-Rate Fees Effective 08/03/14

Obama budget requests $643.6M for territories, FAS

WASHINGTON, D.C.— President Obama has proposed a fiscal year 2016 budget of $643.6 million for the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, which works to empower U.S.-affiliated insular communities by encouraging economic activity, building governmental capacity, promoting effective governance, and supporting adaptation to the impacts of climate change. The budget request includes $103 million in annual appropriations and $540.6 million in permanent and indefinite appropriations mandated by law to the U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States.

"President Obama's 2016 budget request demonstrates his strong commitment to the U.S.-affiliated insular areas," said Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina. "I am proud that the proposed budget recognizes that our island communities are on the front lines of climate change and provides resources to help them to adapt and remain resilient."

"The request supports quality of life in the insular areas by bolstering programs aimed at improving K-12 public school facilities and confronting energy security challenges," added Kia'aina.

Included in the 2016 budget request is $103 million in annual appropriations to address a variety of technical assistance and operational programs in all the U.S.-affiliated island communities. Noteworthy investments include $7 million to address climate change adaptation and resilience; $4.4 million to pursue sustainable energy strategies; $5 million in school maintenance; $17.5 million in technical assistance for insular area governments; and $22.8 million to support American Samoa government operations. Mandatory funding for capital improvement projects remains at $27.7 million.

Permanent appropriations for 2016 include mandated funding to Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is estimated Guam would receive $71 million in tax payments from active-duty military and federal retirees in Guam. These payments, known as Section 30 funds after the law authorizing them, are collected by the federal government and transferred to Guam to support public safety, health care, education and other public services and operations. The USVI is scheduled to receive an estimated $211 million in Rum Cover Over funds, which supports government operations and public services. Under current law, any excise tax collected on USVI manufactured rum imported into the United States is transferred to or "covered-over" to the USVI.

The President's 2016 budget request includes $228.6 million in payments to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands to promote economic advancement and budgetary self-reliance in support of the close and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and these island nations codified in the Compacts of Free Association. In affirmation of the strong and continuing partnership between the U.S. government and the government of Palau, officials from the two nations successfully concluded a review of the Compact of Free Association on Sept. 3, 2010, and signed a 15-year extension agreement that includes a $250 million package of assistance for Palau through 2024. The 2016 budget provides a legislative proposal to enact the agreement under which Palau committed to undertake economic, legislative, financial and management reform and in turn allows the U.S. exclusive military access to Palau's strategically important waters.

About $31 million is included for Compact Impact grants to American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Hawaii to aid in defraying costs incurred by those U.S. jurisdictions as a result of increased demands on health, educational, social or public safety services due to migration from the Freely Associated States, whose citizens are permitted under the Compact to enter the United States to live, work, and attend schools. ***(DOI/OIA)***

Student intern sought for NRCS Saipan office

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is recruiting for a student trainee for its Saipan office. The vacancy announcement was posted yesterday and will close on Feb. 9, 2015. Please consider this internship and work in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"This is such a wonderful opportunity for our students who are currently enrolled or accepted for enrollment on at least a half-time basis at a qualifying educational institution in a certificate, degree, or diploma program," said Craig Derickson NRCS acting director for the Pacific Islands Area.

NRCS helps farmers and ranchers conserve the soil, water, air and other natural resources. We need people who want to apply their education and experience to make sure we all enjoy the benefits of productive soil, clean water, clean air, and abundant wildlife that come from a healthy environment. Our mission is "Helping People Help the Land."

The Pathways Internship Program is for current diploma/certificate/degree-seeking students and is designed to attract students enrolled in a wide variety of educational institutions with paid opportunities to work in USDA/NRCS and explore federal careers while still in school. This program exposes students to jobs in the federal civil service by providing meaningful developmental work while completing their academic requirements.

Candidates selected may be eligible for non-competitive conversion to a term or permanent position in the competitive service provided that all terms of the Internship Program are met and there is an available position. Conversion is not mandatory or guaranteed. The intent of this internship is to convert the candidates to the Soil Conservation Series, 0457. To be eligible for the conversion, you must satisfactorily complete all training and Pathways Program requirements, complete at least 640 hours of work experience prior to graduation, and meet the position's positive education requirements at graduation.

As a Student Trainee (Soil Conservation), you will be performing duties under direct supervision. Assignments will be developmental in nature and will assist the employee gain the competencies necessary for a career. Duties may include receiving intensive and specialized training in all phases of soil and water conservation and related natural resource conservation programs; learning to perform surveys, set construction stakes for a variety of practices, and completes basic designs of commonly used practices for location selected; assisting in program and conservation planning for a variety of soil and water conservation practices, dependent upon location selected, may or may not include terraces, diversions, waterways, farm drainage systems, water control structures, irrigation systems, and others; and assisting in gathering and assembling preliminary data for use in developing and applying basic conservation plans.

All applicants must meet the eligibility, education and qualification requirements by Feb. 9, 2015.

To be eligible for a Pathways Internship, applicants must:

- Be at least 16 years of age at the time of appointment;
- Be enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) in an accredited educational institution;
- Be enrolled at least half-time as defined by your educational institution; and
- Be in good academic standing, as defined by the your academic institution.

All academic degrees or course work must be completed in an educational institution that has obtained accreditation from an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. For a list of schools that meet this criteria, see http://www.edu.gov/. If you are using foreign education to meet qualification requirements, you must send a Certificate of Foreign Equivalency with your transcript in order to receive credit for that education.

If selected for this Internship, the applicant will be required to complete the following Pathways Requirements:

- Be enrolled at least half-time at a qualifying educational institution.
- Maintain good academic standing as defined by the educational institution for the duration of the internship.
- Sign a Pathways Participant Agreement.
- Serve a trial period for the duration of the appointment.

Attempts to falsify information; inflate your qualifications or providing inaccurate information on federal documents may be grounds for disqualification. If selected providing inaccurate information on federal documents could also be grounds for dismissing you from the position/agency. Please review and follow all instructions carefully.

To view the application form, visit: https://nrcs.usda.ntis.gov/cp/?event=jobs.previewApplication&jobid=946b8b22-52af-4e4f-805e-a42d010f8d4c

See www.usajobs.gov for full vacancy announcement. Relocation is not authorized for this student position and U.S. citizenship is required. To learn more about NRCS and working in the Pacific Islands Area, visit www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov. ***(USDA/NRCS)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Office,
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

February 04, 2015

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Ocean Plus Saipan	01/23/2015 SLRm-2015-X-004	Scuba Diving Operation	Lagoon & Reef Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (01/16/2015)*
2. H.S. Lee Construction	01/20/2015 SMS-2015-X-005	Three Story Hotel	Garapan	Major Siting	Under Review
3. PIC	01/30/2015 SMS-91-X-25 (2014 Amend)	Kids Club Facility	San Antonio	Amendment	Under Review

Require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Employment Opportunity

The NMI Board of Nursing seeks a Full time Administrative Assistant:

Essential competencies

1. Communications
2. Organizatonal Skills
3. Computers: Data Base management

Qualifications

High School graduate with at least two (2) years experience in data entry and customer service. Must have strong administrative skills are required, as well as advanced computer skills including knowledge of MS word, Excel and power point.

Closing Date: February 13th, 2015.

A detailed copy describing the individual position is available by request through our email below.

Interested applicants please submit your resume and a cover letter to:
CBNE Board
Email: nmibon@gmail.com

Business

Obama's record budget: Tax the rich, help middle class

WASHINGTON (AP)—Promising to help America's middle class, President Barack Obama on Monday sent Congress a record $4 trillion budget that would hammer corporate profits overseas and raise taxes on the wealthy while boosting tax credits for families and the working poor.

Obama's budget also would steer hundreds of billions of dollars to the nation's crumbling infrastructure of roads and bridges, help provide two years of free community college and reverse the across-the-board, automatic budget cuts that have slammed the Pentagon and nearly every government department.

In the face of certain opposition from Republicans, an optimistic Obama hailed a "breakthrough year for America" of new jobs, lower unemployment and shrinking deficits after the great recession of 2008, and he called for moving past years of "mindless austerity." The blueprint for the 2016 budget year that begins Oct. 1 represents a 6.4 percent increase over estimated spending this year, projecting that the deficit will decline to $474 billion.

Obama

However, Obama's plan ignores the new balance of power in Washington, with Republicans running both the House and Senate. The GOP found plenty to criticize in his proposed tax hikes that would total about $1.5 trillion.

Republicans cited the nation's $18 trillion debt and assailed what they call Obama's tax-and-spend policies for failing to address the spiraling growth of benefit programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

"Today President Obama laid out a plan for more taxes, more spending, and more of the Washington gridlock that has failed middle class families," said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. "This plan never balances—ever."

Republicans aren't offering specifics yet but will respond this spring with their own plan, a balanced-budget outline promising to get rid of "Obamacare," ease the burdens of the national debt on future generations, curb the explosive growth of expensive benefit programs and reform a loophole-cluttered tax code in hopes of promoting economic growth.

While Obama's plan was rejected out of hand on budget day, proposals to ease automatic cuts and boost transportation funding are likely to return later in the year and require extensive negotiation.

"These proposals are practical, not partisan," Obama said of his overall plans. "They'll help working families feel more secure with paychecks that go further, help American workers upgrade their skills so they can compete for higher-paying jobs, and help create the conditions for our businesses to keep generating good new jobs for our workers to fill."

Exxon, Chevron to boost production just as prices fall

NEW YORK (AP)—Exxon Mobil has been working for years on a fleet of enormous new oil and gas projects in places such as Abu Dhabi, Russia, Papua New Guinea, and the Gulf of Mexico designed to turn around what has been a consistent and alarming slide in oil and gas production.

A record eight of these mega-projects came on-line last year, Exxon said Monday—just as oil prices were falling by more than half.

"Investors would be more than happy to see production decline but oil prices higher," said Fadel Gheit, an analyst at Oppenheimer & Co.

No such luck this year. These enormous projects were conceived and started years ago, as prices were rising. Now they are starting to produce oil and gas at a time when the price of global crude has been eviscerated by rising supplies and weak growth in demand.

On Monday Exxon posted a 21 percent decline in both revenue and profit for the fourth quarter because of lower oil prices. The company said it earned $6.57 billion in the quarter, the lowest since the first quarter of 2010, on revenue of $87.28 billion. Last year Exxon earned $8.35 billion on revenue of $110.86 billion.

Exxon also said Monday that oil and gas production slipped 4 percent compared with a year earlier, to 4.05 million barrels per day. It was the 13th decline in the last 14 quarters. Four years ago, Exxon was producing nearly 1 million more barrels of oil and gas per day than it is now.

Chevron, which is in the midst of its own boom of new mega-projects, posted similar results Friday. It managed to eke out a small gain in production, but posted a 30 percent decline in profit.

Death toll from GM ignition switches rises to at least 51

DETROIT (AP)—The families of 51 people who died in crashes caused by faulty ignition switches in small General Motors cars will get payments from a company fund, but others will have to wait months for decisions on thousands of new claims.

Compensation expert Kenneth Feinberg has also deemed 77 people injured in crashes as eligible for payments from the fund, which received at least 4,180 claims by a Saturday deadline, including more than 1,100 in the past week.

But attorneys, lawmakers and at least one family member say some were forced to settle with Feinberg rather than run the risk that they would not be able to sue GM because of its 2009 bankruptcy agreement.

Camille Biros, deputy administrator of the fund who has worked with Feinberg to compensate victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the BP oil spill, said the last-minute flurry of activity is common in compensation cases. She says the number of claims could rise, because those filed by mail had to be postmarked by Jan. 31.

More death and injury claims are likely to be granted, Biros said, but it could take until late spring to sort through all of the paperwork.

GM was aware of faulty ignition switches on Chevrolet Cobalts and other small cars for more than a decade, but it did not recall them until 2014. On 2.6 million GM vehicles worldwide, the switches can slip out of the "on" position, causing the cars to stall, knocking out power steering and turning off the air bags.

ALTER CITY GROUP

ALTER CITY GROUP is a renowned and successful international real estate and property development and investment company with offices in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Zhuhai and Headquarters located in Macau. Current key projects include developing, constructing and operating 2 five-star first class integrated hotels and casino resort, an 18-hole international golf course, a water themed park, VIP villas and other associated facilities complex locates at San Jose, Tinian in CNMI.

Our recent expansion in CNMI has created exciting opportunities and we now invite competent candidates to join us for a challenging career in our growing team within our organization.

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Responsibilities:
- Responsible for the purchase of materials, plan inventory and ensure operations efficiency;
- Responsible and lead for a wide ranging for a wide ranging brief-facilities management, people management and finance;
- Contribute towards the achievement of Company's strategic and operational objectives;
- Managing all security and other systems ensuring all procedures are complied with and appropriate risks are assessed;
- Conducting and implementing OM & workflow;
- Ensures that the business achieves the required licenses and safety standards to comply with national health, fire and safety regulations thus ensuring the safety of the corporate staff and public.
- Performs quality controls and implement/monitor production KPI's including setting operational goals to meet.
- Manage and implement any software necessary for business growth.

Qualifications:
- College graduate;
- Minimum of 8 years of related experience;
- Excellent communications skills (verbal and written);
- Multilingual in the Chamorro, Chinese and/or Japanese or Korean languages is advantageous;
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.

CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER

Responsibilities:
- Correspond with employees and external stakeholders to keep them informed of Company developments;
- Communicate externally with the media and other interested parties to announce corporate news and discuss organizational changes in a way that attempts to maintain positive image of the Company;
- Identify key media opportunities, plan public relations programs including the preparation of cost budgets;
- Present controversy discussions/debates on behalf of the organization to the government;
- Respond to inquiries from the public, media and other organizations;
- Arrange interviews with journalists, prepare and distribute media releases and make statements to the media/public;
- Manage the creation and development of print and online advertising, email marketing, website management and content development, press releases, bylined articles, white papers, corporate videos and any marketing collateral.

Qualifications:
- College graduate;
- Minimum of 1-2 years of related experience;
- Excellent communications skills (verbal and written);
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.

PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

Responsibilities:
- Manage public relations department by planning, directing or coordinating activities designed to create and maintain a favorable public image or raise issue awareness for the Company;
- Maintain effective working relationships with local and municipal government officials and media representatives;
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with clients, government officials, and media representatives and use of these relationships to develop new business opportunities;
- Write effective press releases, prepare information for media kits and develop and maintain Company internet or intranet web pages;
- Identify main client groups and audiences, determine the best way to communicate publicity information to them and develop and implement a communication plan;
- Draft speeches for Company executives and arrange interviews and other form of contact;
- Evaluate advertising and promotion programs for compatibility with public relations efforts;
- Assign, supervise and review the activities of the Public Relations staff.

Qualifications:
- College graduate;
- Excellent communications skills (verbal and written);
- Multilingual in the Chamorro, Chinese and/or Japanese or Korean languages is advantageous;
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Responsibilities:
- Plan, execute and finalize assigned project according to strict deadlines and within budget including acquiring resources and coordinating the efforts of team members, and third party contractors or consultants in order to deliver according to plan;
- Setting up accounting system for new hotels and provide directions and support to all hotels in the group;
- Responsible for full set of accounting including tax returns and independently oversee the financial daily operation;
- Administer and monitor the financial system on order to ensure that the municipal finances are maintained in an accurate and timely manner;
- Oversee the accounts payable and accounts receivable systems in order to ensure complete and accurate records of all monies;
- Prepare monthly financial statement and financial reports;
- Responsible for forecasting and budgeting;
- Maintain fixed asset and depreciation registers on a monthly/quarterly basis;

Qualifications:
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant;
- Minimum of 2-4 years of related experience;

OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

Responsibilities:
- Assist in resolving problems on day-to-day basis in all operational areas;
- Ensure that operational activities are executed within allotted budget, timelines and corporate policy;
- Responsible for the execution of the regulations development, procedures, and operating instructions tailored to the specific need of the business and addresses such functions as logistics and facilities management, range operations and administrative requirements, etc.;
- Responsible for the management of supply chain, order processing including thorough documentation;
- Maintain database of both internal and external needs;
- Prepare responses to correspondence containing routine inquires;
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:
- High school graduate;
- Minimum of 5 years related experience;
- Excellent communications skills (verbal and written);
- Multilingual in the Chamorro, Chinese and/or Japanese or Korean languages is advantageous;
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT

Responsibilities:
- Provide full support to HR Manager by assisting in managing day-to-day office admin or HR activities;
- Assist in managing policies, procedures and conduct internal employee programs;
- Maintain and updated employee files, and job specification for each hiring positions;
- Hands on in HR Database Management, Legal Compliance/Code of Conduct, Organization Development/Process Improvement, Performance & Career Management, Recruitment & Selection, etc.;
- Arrange official appointments and meetings, record minutes and distribute;
- Manage the office administration system to secure overall Company efficiency, productivity and cost effectiveness;
- Perform other HR duties as assigned.

Qualifications:
- High school graduate;
- Minimum of 1-2 years related experience;
- Excellent communications skills (verbal and written);
- Multilingual in the Chamorro, Chinese and/or Japanese or Korean languages is advantageous;
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Responsibilities:
- Engage in promoting or creating an intended public image for the Company;
- Respond to requests for information from the media;
- Write press releases and other media communications for promotion;
- Establish or maintain cooperative relationships with representatives of community, consumer, employee or public interest group;
- Prepare or edit organizational publications such as employee newsletters or stockholders reports for internal and external audiences;
- Arrange public appearances, lectures, contests or exhibits for client to increase product of service awareness or to promote goodwill;
- Perform all other tasks assigned by management;
- Field media inquiries and present proposed responses for management;

Qualifications:
- Associate's degree;
- Minimum of 2-4 years related experience;
- Excellent communications skills (verbal and written);
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Responsibilities:
- Managing bank accounts;
- Consolidating annual accounting statements;
- Preparing tax returns;
- Assisting in any form of auditing;
- Reconciling balance sheets;
- Preparing financial reports;
- Assist in other financial reporting functions when need arise;
- Perform other as hoc tasks.

Qualifications:
- Associate's degree;
- Minimum of 1-2 year related experience.

Qualified applicants must submit a resume with a cover letter to hr.cnmi@altercitygroup.com by FEBRUARY 6, 2015. Salary is commensurate with work experience and education.

For inquiries, please contact Robert T. Torres, Esq. at 234-7859 or by email at rttlaw@pticom.com.

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Tinian, CNMI

Nation

Northeast gets its 2nd major workday snowstorm in a week

BOSTON (AP)—Boston scrambled to dig out Monday from the second major winter storm in a week and delayed a celebratory Super Bowl parade, and forecasters from Philadelphia to Portland, Maine, warned that "flash freezing" could make roads dangerously slippery.

Officials said a Massachusetts woman was run over and killed by a snowplow, and New York state police said two people were killed in a multivehicle crash on an interstate in Rye. Here's the latest on the storm:

A DEADLY TOLL

Fifty-seven-year-old Cynthia Levine was struck and killed by a snowplow just before 10 a.m. Monday in the parking lot of a condominium complex in Weymouth, south of Boston, the Norfolk district attorney's office said.

In New York, state police said they were investigating a two-vehicle crash on Interstate 95 in Rye when a third vehicle lost control on the highway and hit the two vehicles from the first crash, killing two people. The cause was not immediately known, but the crash occurred as snow and freezing rain hindered travel throughout the region.

Officials in Ohio, where the storm hit before slamming into the Northeast, said a Toledo police officer died while shoveling snow in his driveway Sunday and the city's 70-year-old mayor was hospitalized after an accident that may have occurred while he was out checking road conditions.

The officer, who was not named, died of an apparent heart attack. Doctors say Mayor D. Michael Collins was heavily sedated and in critical condition Monday, a day after he went into cardiac arrest and his SUV crashed into a pole on his way home not long after a news conferece.

AP
Cars are covered by snow in parking lot at O'Hare International Airport on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015, in Chicago.

SNOWFALL AND WARNINGS

The snowstorm, which dumped more than 19 inches of snow on Chicago, deepened off the southern New England coast, bringing accumulations up to 18 inches to the greater Boston and up to a foot of slushy wintry mix to Hartford, Connecticut; Providence, Rhode Island; southern New Hampshire and Vermont—places still reeling from the up to 3 feet they got last week.

"For New Englanders, we're used to this during the winter," said Matt Doody of the National Weather Service. But he cautioned that the evening commute would be messy.

More than 20 counties in New York state were under a winter storm warning, with up to 16 inches forecast for the eastern Catskill Mountains, and northern and central Taconics. Many Long Island schools delayed opening or closed due to a forecast of snow and freezing rain. By early afternoon, central Massachusetts had more than a foot.

The Philadelphia area received about an inch of snow before the precipitation changed to rain. Forecasters expected 3 to 5 inches to fall in the Lehigh Valley, and 5 to 11 inches in northern Pennsylvania. Parts of northern Ohio got at least a foot.

ACROSS THE NATION

Colorado plunges into gun debate with GOP flexing new muscle

DENVER (AP)—Colorado Republican leaders have begun a legislative push to repeal recently passed gun control measures, reigniting one of the most intense political debates in recent history. The first advance came Monday as discussion started on several measures in each chamber. One of the most prominent measures—a longshot bill that would undo expanded background-check requirements on private and online sales—was passed by a Senate committee. The GOP-introduced measures come as the party has gained a new majority in the state Senate and as the man charged in the suburban Denver theater shooting rampage, which touched off the fight over gun laws, goes to trial facing the death penalty.

Charles Manson marriage license to expire without a wedding

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—A 26-year-old woman with the nickname Star who says she is going to marry 80-year-old mass murderer Charles Manson will have to wait a while longer. Afton Elaine Burton and Manson got a marriage license last year to stage a wedding inside a visiting room at California State Prison, Corcoran. However, it expires Thursday, meaning they missed their chance to tie the knot over the weekend, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation spokesman Jeffrey Callison said Monday. Weddings are not held on weekdays at the prison.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2015

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, **through the** Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an **estimated** $1,240,460.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $868,915.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $309,294.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $62,251.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2015.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention **and rapid re-housing** activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning January 06, 2015.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **Friday, March 23, 2015, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 23, 2015, will not be accepted.**

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 18, 2015, 5:00 p.m. & February 25, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2015 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC RFP 2015-001
"Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Tinian (20 units)"

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Tinian.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Friday, January 23, 2015, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Tinian Field Office during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Tinian Field Office on **Friday, January 30, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.** Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 4, 2015.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Asia

Hostage killings highlight threat, meager options for Japan

TOKYO (AP)—The killing of two Japanese taken hostage by the Islamic State group has savagely driven home the high stakes Japan faces and limited options it can muster in such circumstances.

Journalist Kenji Goto's beheading, seen in an online video over the weekend, also offers a glimpse into how Japan is struggling to handle the rising menace of terrorism.

Until this crisis, Japan had not become directly embroiled in the fight against the militants, who now control about a third of both Syria and neighboring Iraq in a self-declared caliphate. Tokyo's backing for U.S.-led air strikes against the Islamic State group is confined to financial and humanitarian aid for refugees and other non-military support for countries affected by the conflict.

That proved no hindrance for the jihadis.

"What we should realize is that the Japanese are no exception to terrorist targets. We really should open our eyes to see this reality," Kunihiko Miyake, a former diplomat and researcher at a private think tank in Tokyo, told a news show on TV Asahi.

Abe

"The levels of safety precautions Japan has taken up until now are not enough," he said. "We must review and step up security for Japanese, not only those abroad but here in Japan."

Japan's options for trying to free the hostages were limited. Tokyo lacks a strong diplomatic presence in the region and has a very small corps of Arab experts. Moreover, the military is confined by the constitution, drafted by U.S. occupying forces after World War II, to a strictly self-defense role and would be unable to stage a rescue attempt.

The video showing Goto's killing, purportedly from the Islamic State militants, carried chilling threats to single out Japanese anywhere as targets.

Addressing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a man resembling a militant shown in other beheading videos by the Islamic State group says, "because of your reckless decision to take part in an unwinnable war, this knife will not only slaughter Kenji, but will also carry on and cause carnage wherever your people are found. So let the nightmare for Japan begin."

Abe has made security a top priority of his administration. He ordered greater vigilance at airports and at Japanese facilities overseas, such as embassies and schools. The government already was considering sending troops for overseas rescues.

In parliament Monday, opposition lawmakers questioned Abe over his response to the crisis and challenged his desire to expand the scope of Japan's military.

Macau casino operator opens new casino resort in Manila

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Melco Crown Entertainment formally opened its $1 billion casino and entertainment resort in Manila on Monday, hoping to cash in on a fast growing Philippine economy and increased tourism.

The company's co-chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho said the opening of the City of Dreams Manila is part of the company's plans to have casinos across Asia.

It operates casinos in the world's biggest gambling market, Macau. China's corruption crackdown has deterred high-rolling mainland gamblers from Macau's casino tables in the past year.

The Manila casino will cater to the growing influx of tourists to the Philippines, but Clarence Chung Yuk Man, chairman of the Philippine arm of Melco Crown, said it would also target local gamblers who are estimated to have parted with $2.3 billion last year.

He said out of the casino operators with licenses in the Philippines, Melco is the only one with a customer base in Macau and can bring in VIP customers and high-rollers.

"We will promote cross marketing and also try to promote this property to our customers so that there is additional choice for them," Chung told a news conference.

Australian billionaire James Packer, who is Melco's co-chairman, said the Philippines' strong economy, its 100 million people and rising tourism offer a huge market potential.

The resort houses a casino; the Crown, Nobu and Hyatt hotels; two premium nightclubs; the world's first DreamWorks-inspired interactive play space DreamPlay; restaurants and retail shops.

Nobu is part-owned by Hollywod star Robert de Nero, who appears in a video commercial for the resort, alongside Leonardo Di Caprio and director Martin Scorcese.

UN official: NKorean human rights, cult of Kim can't coexist

TOKYO (AP)—A campaign within the United Nations to haul North Korean leader Kim Jong Un before an international court for crimes against humanity has touched off a defensive fury in Pyongyang, where it's being treated like a diplomatic declaration of war—an aggressive act aimed not only at shutting down prison camps but also at removing Kim and dismantling his family's three-generation cult of personality.

More paranoia?

Actually, according to the U.N.'s point man on human rights in North Korea, that is not too far off the mark, though he stressed no one is advocating a military option to force regime change.

"It would be, I think, the first order of the day to get these 80,000 to 100,000 (prisoners) immediately released and these camps disbanded," Marzuki Darusman, the U.N.'s special rapporteur on human rights in North Korea, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But that can only happen if this cult leadership system is completely dismantled. And the only way to do that is if the Kim family is effectively displaced, is effectively removed from the scene, and a new leadership comes into place."

Such blunt words from a high-ranking U.N. official are unusual, although common among American officials.

Darusman said previous proposals submitted to the U.N. trying to persuade or force North Korea to improve its human rights record were mostly "rhetorical" exercises.

But he said this resolution, passed by the General Assembly in December, is more significant because it holds Kim responsible based on a 372-page report of findings presented last year by the U.N.-backed Commission of Inquiry that detailed arbitrary detention, torture, executions and political prison camps.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1

Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1, Songsong Village Rota, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1 in Songsong Village, Rota.

Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 11, 2015** at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo, Rota. All potential proposers are encouraged to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions. However the site visit is not mandatory for the potential proposers, owing to the difficult logistics and uncertain air transport.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 12, 2015**, 10:00 a.m. (ChST) to be considered. Registered proponents of the initial CUC-RFP-15-001, are exempted from paying the package fee for CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC RFP -15-001,Rev.1 Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).**

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – https://marianaslabor.net/.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to CUC and the Attorney General.

A *Payment and a Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment & Performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and the Attorney General, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 13, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Stipulated Order 2 Project Coordinator via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-010

WATERLINE REPAIRS FOR LEAK DETECTION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Waterline Repairs for Leak Detection Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation to verify leaks and perform leak repairs on various types of waterlines and appurtenances. Materials for leak repairs are to be provided by CUC. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year, contingent upon funding and if exercised by CUC.

This project is funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the US-EPA.

The IFB package (electronic disk file) may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Waterline Repairs for Leak Detection, Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered**.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code*.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 5, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, Procurement & Supply Division, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement &Supply

World

Mexican opium farmers expand plots to supply US heroin boom

SIERRA MADRE DEL SUR, Mexico (AP)—Red and purple blossoms with fat, opium-filled bulbs blanket the remote creek sides and gorges of the Filo Mayor mountains in the southern state of Guerrero.

The multibillion-dollar Mexican opium trade starts here, with poppy farmers so poor they live in wood-plank, tin-roofed shacks with no indoor plumbing.

Mexican farmers from three villages interviewed by The Associated Press are feeding a growing addiction in the U.S., where heroin use has spread from back alleys to the cul-de-sacs of suburbia.

The heroin trade is a losing prospect for everyone except the Mexican cartels, who have found a new way to make money in the face of falling cocaine consumption and marijuana legalization in the United States. Once smaller-scale producers of low-grade black tar, Mexican drug traffickers are now refining opium paste into high-grade white heroin and flooding the world's largest market for illegal drugs, using the distribution routes they built for marijuana and cocaine.

It is a business that even the farmers don't like. In a rare interview with reporters, the villagers told The Associated Press that it's too difficult to ship farm products on roads so rough and close to the sky that cars are in constant danger of tumbling off the single-lane dirt roads that zig-zag up to the fields. They say the small plastic-wrapped bricks of gummy opium paste are the only thing that will guarantee them a cash income.

AP

In this Jan. 27, 2015 photo, a man sits in a field of poppy flowers that were killed when the government aerially sprayed a herbicide in the Sierra Madre del Sur mountains of Guerrero state, Mexico.

"Almost everyone thinks the people in these mountains are bad people, and that's not true," said Humberto Nava Reyna, the head of the Supreme Council of the Towns of the Filo Mayor, a group that promotes development projects in the mountains. "They can't stop planting poppies as long as there is demand, and the government doesn't provide any help."

Villagers granted the AP access to their farms and agreed to interviews only if they were not identified, fearing it could draw attention from government drug eradicators or vengeful traffickers.

Al-Jazeera reporter has mixed feelings on release from jail

CAIRO (AP)—Al-Jazeera journalist Peter Greste expressed "relief and excitement" Monday at being freed after more than a year in an Egyptian prison, but also said he felt real stress over leaving his two jailed colleagues behind.

His first public comments came as a court in Egypt sentenced 183 people to death in the violence following the 2013 ouster of former President Mohammed Morsi in the latest in a series of harsh punishments that have drawn condemnation at home and abroad.

Greste, an Australian, told Al-Jazeera English he experienced a "real mix of emotions" when he was freed Sunday because fellow journalists Mohamed Fahmy, an Egyptian Canadian, and Baher Mohammed, an Egyptian, remained imprisoned on terrorism charges and for spreading false information. The three were arrested in December 2013 and received sentences of seven to 10 years before their convictions were overturned on appeal. A retrial began Jan. 1.

Authorities presented no concrete evidence to back the charges against them. They insisted they were doing their jobs and are widely seen as having been caught up in a quarrel between Egypt and Qatar, which funds Al-Jazeera and was a strong backer of Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood.

"It was a very difficult moment walking out of that prison, saying goodbye to the guys, not knowing how much longer they all have to put up with this," said the 49-year-old Greste.

He also spoke of how he spent his 400 days of incarceration.

"The key is to stay fit physically, mentally and spiritually," he said, explaining that he followed a workout regimen, running in a limited space, but also studied and meditated.

"I made a very conscious effort to deal with all three things and dealing with each day as it came," Greste said.

Ukraine troops fight to avoid being surrounded by rebels

DEBALTSEVE, Ukraine (AP)—As Ukrainian troops fought Monday to defend a strategic railway hub, Russian-backed separatists pledged to boost the size of their force and Washington pondered whether to expand its assistance to Ukraine to include lethal aid.

President Barack Obama has so far opposed sending lethal assistance, but an upsurge in fighting in eastern Ukraine has spurred the White House to take a fresh look at supplying Ukraine with such aid, a senior administration official said.

Since the unrest in eastern Ukraine surged anew in early January, the separatists have made notable strides in clawing territory away from the government in Kiev. Their main offensive is now directed at Debaltseve—a government-held railway junction once populated by 25,000 people that lies between the rebel-held cities of Luhansk and Donetsk.

Almost 2,000 residents have fled in the last few days alone.

Rebel forces have mounted multiple assaults on government positions in Debaltseve but all were repelled, a spokesman for Ukrainian military operations in the east, Andriy Lysenko, said Monday.

"The units that have arrived in support of our troops in Debaltseve are counterattacking and denying the enemy the opportunity to complete the encirclement," he said.

Separatist fighters burst through Ukrainian lines last week in the village of Vuhlehirsk on the road west of Debaltseve, getting access to a ridge overlooking the highway running north from the town.

On Monday, Associated Press reporters saw Ukrainian tanks shooting from open fields at the tree line on that ridge. Minutes later, the tanks rolled back onto the highway, leaving a heavy trail of mud in their wake, and taking up new field positions a few hundred meters (yards) away.

In a coordinated defensive maneuver, Ukrainian forces fired barrages from Grad multiple-rocket launchers toward the same area.

Despite the government's insistence that it intends to retain control of Debaltseve, rows of trenches near a bridge 15 kilometers (9 miles) to the north suggested a backup plan in case the town falls.

In Loving Memory of

†Brigida Nakatsukasa Maratita

Lovingly Known as "Bung"
June 05, 1956 – January 31, 2015
Was called home by Our Heavenly Father at the age of 58.

In Her New life, †Brigida will be met at the gate of heaven by Her:

Parents:	†Thomas Camacho Maratita & †Magdalena Taisacan Nakatsukasa Maratita
Son:	†Thomas Maratita
Grandson:	†Thomas Maratita Jr.
Paternal Godparents:	†Robert Matantaotao Maratita & †Brigida Camacho Maratita
Maternal Godparents:	†Johannes Koyama Nakatsukasa & †Consuelo Taisacan Nakatsukasa
Sister:	†Remedio Nakatsukasa Basa
Brothers:	†Herman T. Nakatsukasa, †Johannes, †Juan, †Jeffrey & †Rufino Maratita

†Brigida's Love and Memories will forever remain in the hearts of her Children:
Bertha M. & Joaquin SN. Camacho (Jasmine & Matthew Fujihira (Ayami Faith), Joaquin & Florida Bowie, Jaythan & Kaela Camacho (Kaleah'Ana Jae), Jessah Rae Camacho)
†Thomas Maratita & Stephanie Oei (Bridnie, Thomas Jr., Tihanna)
Eldin N. & Susan C. Maratita (Eldin Jr., Tammy, John David, Elizha)

Brothers, Sisters /Spouses:

†Remedio N. / Francisco S. Basa & Children
†Rufino N. / Ernestina N. Maratita & Children
Robert N. Maratita
Eusebio N. / Virginia Maratita & Son
Rosalina M. / Jose M. Taga & Children
Consuelo M. / Eddie Reyes & Children
Diego N. Maratita
Edwina N. Maratita
Kuleta M. / JoeVince Taitano & Children
†Jeffrey N. Maratita & Children

She will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Daily Mass of Intention is being offered at San Antonio Church at 6:00pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, February 09, 2015; Our Beloved †BRIGIDA will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 8:00am to San Antonio Church.
Responso service will be at 8:30am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:45am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30am followed by Interment Services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Please join us in prayers,

The Family

WORLD BRIEFS

South Sudan's warring factions sign another peace deal

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—South Sudan's warring factions early Monday signed another peace deal in the latest effort to end hostilities that have raged for more than a year, but analysts expressed doubt about whether it will hold. The government and rebels have previously signed at least three peace deals which were broken quickly. South Sudan rebels' military spokesman, Lul Koang, said keeping the agreement depends on both sides. "If the government respects the deal, then there will definitely be a decrease in the level of violence. But if they remain in the same mood, it is not going to stop the fight," Lul said.

Canadian foreign minister to step down

TORONTO (AP)—Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird will be announcing his resignation from the Cabinet on Tuesday, a senior government official said. The official who is close to the minister said late Monday that Baird simply felt it was the right time to move on after a successful career in both the Ontario provincial legislature and federal parliament. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak ahead of Tuesday's announcement. Baird, 45, is one of Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper's most trusted and loyal cabinet ministers. He previously served in Harper's cabinet as house leader, environment minister, transport minister and treasury board president. He has a reputation for being hyper-partisan. He often escorted Harper's wife, Laureen, to official events when Harper couldn't attend.

Good Housekeeping

New washer technology requires clean start for user

By ROSA COLUCCI
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

PITTSBURGH—If you Google the phrase "how to remove mold and mildew from a front-load washing machine," you will get more than 1 million results.

The new generation of sleek, high-efficiency machines beg us to make them the centerpiece of the laundry room, but most don't realize that like most technology, proper usage and routine maintenance are required.

Matt Hillebrand, principal owner of Don's Appliances, knows this well. His company's service department takes a lot of calls from customers about this issue. Here is his answer:

"The customer is the main reason for the mold. Most use entirely too much detergent. Manufacturers recommend 1-2 tablespoons of detergent, and customers are using the maximum levels on the bottle tops or the box."

Yes, you read that correctly, one or two TABLESPOONS per load.

"The washer uses very little water, and so you must adjust and lower detergent to accommodate that. We (the industry) are trying to educate the consumer on the front end," Hillebrand said.

FOTOLIA

Using the correct amount of detergent will help control mold in front-loading washers.

He also pointed out that owners of high-efficiency washers should be using a detergent brand with the "HE" logo. When you use more than the recommended amount, the soap is not fully rinsed from the machine. Not only is the soap dispenser often clogged but also the rubber gasket in the front door becomes the perfect environment for dark, smelly mold. Too much fabric softener can also gunk up the dispenser, Hillebrand said.

And the smell may be only the beginning. The problem can ruin clothes and shorten the lifespan of your very expensive machine.

Several products are now sold to remove the residue and smell. But you can get the same results with products you probably already have on hand. Hillebrand says his service team walks customers through the cleanup this way:

1. Carefully remove the soap dispenser cups and clean off any gunk with hot water, let air dry and return to the unit.

2. Run bleach through the soap cup. He recommends a capful of bleach to start, depending how bad the odor is in the system. Run a hot water cycle with no clothes.

3. Wipe out the entire gasket with a Clorox wipe (use rubber gloves and dispose after). Some of the mold may not come off if it is a long-term problem.

4. If the smell is very bad, put Affresh or another cleaning product in the machine. Three tablets and a full cleaning cycle should do the trick.

"If there is still a problem, call your service guy," he said.

After you have remedied the problem, it's not a bad idea to use a microfiber towel to dry the gaskets and door after each load.

"If you leave the door open, you shouldn't have to dry the gasket because most machines now have a drip gasket." (Households with small children and pets should keep the door closed for safety.) After that, one tablet every few months should keep the unit smelling fresh.

Hillebrand also has some suggestions for dryers. They should be checked twice a year, and January is the perfect time.

"Dryer sheets don't allow lint to be properly captured on the lint filters. Thus you can have excessive lint in the system and the vent pipe that leads to a fire," he said.

The problem is worse in the winter because items such as blankets, sweaters and heavy clothes shed more lint. The National Fire Protection Association reports that in 2010, 16,800 reported home structure fires involving clothes dryers or washing machines resulted in 51 deaths, 380 injuries and $236 million in direct property damage. Of those fires, 92 percent were caused by clothes dryers.

"If you have a plastic vent pipe attached to your dryer, you must replace it immediately," he said.

Rigid, metal pipe is best, flex pipe is second and easier. "Also, if you see any damage on the pipe, replace it."

Owners should clean the sleeve that connects to the dryer twice a year. "Lint backs up in that part of the unit and is often overlooked."

Hillebrand notes that Miele vacuum cleaners have a flex tool attachment that is the perfect shape and size to remove lint.

THIS IS A HAMMER

Thermostat on the fritz

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
(C) 2015 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I replaced my home's old mercury thermostat with a digital thermostat about seven years ago. Lately though, the heating seems off: I'll adjust the temperature up a degree or two because it feels too cold, and in a few minutes the house is very hot. All the time, the thermostat shows the room temperature as being exactly what I set it at. Can I recalibrate a digital thermostat, the way that the older mercury thermostats can be calibrated?—Karl J., Buffalo, New York

A: Since digital thermostats don't measure temperature using mercury bulbs—the way older thermostats do—calibrating them doesn't work the same way. They have a temperature sensor that can detect the precise temperature of a room, enabling more exact control of the home's temperature and, ideally, cost savings.

However, you can check to see if the thermostat is measuring the room temperature accurately. This is as simple as taping a mercury or digital thermometer next to the thermostat, so that you get a reading of the air temperature around the device from a second source.

If the thermostat can be calibrated, you'll be able to find instructions to do so either inside the front cover of the device, or in the manufacturer's instructions. (If you lost the instructions, you usually can download them from the manufacturer's website.) Calibration differs between models, but generally brings the temperature set point in line with the sensor.

Several other issues could be causing the apparent touchiness of the thermostat. The sensor could be bad, or there may be a problem with the thermostat's wiring. The device itself may need to be replaced.

Further, your home's heating issue could be unrelated to the thermostat. If calibration doesn't help, have a heating and A/C professional come in a do a system checkup, look for possible problems, and suggest solutions.

HOME TIP: Have you changed your heating system's air filter yet? Do this monthly during the winter to improve efficiency and air quality.

Send your home tips and questions to ask@thisisahammer.com.

COMFORT FOOD

White Chocolate Cherry Pie

By HEALTHY EXCHANGES
(C) 2015 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Enjoy this heavenly Valentine's Day treat to your heart's content, but be sure to save some for your sweetheart.

- 1 (20-ounce) can sugar-free cherry pie filling
- 1 (6-ounce) purchased chocolate crumb pie crust
- 1 (4-serving) package sugar-free instant white chocolate pudding mix
- 2/3 cup dry milk powder
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup reduced-calorie whipped topping
- 2 tablespoons mini chocolate chips

1. Reserve 1/2 cup cherry pie filling. Evenly spread remaining pie filling in pie crust.

2. In a large bowl, combine dry pudding mix, dry milk powder and water. Mix well using a wire whisk. Blend in whipped topping. Spread pudding mixture evenly over cherry filling.

3. Drop reserved cherry pie filling by tablespoon over pudding layer to form 8 mounds. Evenly sprinkle chocolate chips over top. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Cut into 8 pieces.

- *Each serving equals: 198 calories, 6g fat, 4g protein, 32g carb., 387mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Fat, 1 Fruit.*

In Memory of our Beloved

JOSEPH KILEN S. BERKI

Lovingly known as "Chief" and "Dad" to numerous nieces and nephews
April 03, 1938 – January 29, 2015

A retired Chief Security for the Nauru Building, a loving brother, husband and father, was called to his eternal rest by our Lord at the age 76.

In his new life, he now joins his:
Wife: Francesca Rogolifoi Kaipat Berki
Sons: Kopa "Koby" Koninnis
Cypriano Kaipat Berki
Daughter in-law: Melva Muna Berki

His love and peaceful spirit will live on in the hearts of his:
Wife: Alma Ng Berki
Children: **Lucky** Koninnis & Estina Meippen
(†) **Kopa** "Koby" Koninnis & Gina (†)
Amena "Weires" Koninnis and Nexi
Catherine & Edward Dela Cruz (EJ/Sharon, Patrick & Children, Jason/Leina & Children, Jannel/Ton & Children, Tricia, Fermin/Jenn & Children)
Myrna & Karatel Phillip (Daniel, David/Jessiemae & Children, Yvonne/Shaquiell & baby boy, Brandon/Lang
(†) **Cypriano**/(†) **Melva Berki** (Joseph Ramon "JR") Dawn Mullican (Jerica & Cypriano Jr)
Manuel & Fuamatala Berki and son, Jonathan Daryll
Claudine & Pwoch Fitial (Leodine/Shane and Sophie)
Aileen, Mariel and **Meillene** Ferrer

Brothers/Sisters and Spouses:
(†)Francisco Sekerias/Anasia Joysa
Fanerio Sekerias/Nosie Nina
Fubiana Sekerias/(†)Kastor Ichu
Winiona Sekerias/(†)Anpio Renuk
Achelina Sekerias/ (†) Tasi Otoko
Enrasia Sekerias/ (†) Deo William

Our beloved Joseph will be with us for the last time on Friday, February 06, 2015 beginning at 8:30am at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral with responso service and public visitation. Mass of burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment services at Mt. Carmel cemetery.

Life & Style

Haunting parallels between Whitney Houston, daughter

ROSWELL, Georgia (AP)—The parallels are haunting: Bobbi Kristina Brown and her mother, Whitney Houston, were both found face-down in bathtubs as the music industry prepared for the Grammy Awards.

Both lived in the constant glare of entertainment industry attention, both struggled with drugs; both married men criticized by family and friends as wrong for them.

As the pop star's 21-year-old daughter lay hospitalized Monday, police in Roswell, Georgia, issued an incident report saying only that they were called Saturday to her home in suburban Atlanta in response to "a drowning," and had secured the scene for investigators.

"Bobbi Kristina is fighting for her life and is surrounded by immediate family," the Houston family said in a statement Monday. "We are asking you to honor our request for privacy during this difficult time. Thank you for your prayers, well wishes, and we greatly appreciate your continued support."

With no details forthcoming from police or family about her condition or what may have caused the tragedy, many people looked to see what she's been posting online. Her last tweet, from Thursday, reflected obvious frustration over her failure to break out as an entertainer: "Let's start this career up&&moving OUT to TO YOU ALLLL quick shall we !?!???!"

Two days later, her non-responsive body was discovered, in circumstances eerily similar to her mother's death.

AP

In this Feb. 12, 2011, file photo, singer Whitney Houston, left, and daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown arrive at an event in Beverly Hills, Calif.

On Feb. 11, 2012, just before the Grammys, Houston's assistant found the singer's lifeless body face-down in a foot of water in her tub at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Authorities found a dozen prescription drug bottles in the suite and listed heart disease and cocaine use as contributors, but concluded that she accidentally drowned.

Bobbi Kristina, then 18, was outside Houston's room, and became so distraught that she needed to be hospitalized.

"She wasn't only a mother, she was a best friend," she told Oprah shortly after her mother's death in 2012.

But Houston was an impossible act to follow for her daughter, who identified herself on Twitter as "Daughter of Queen WH," ''Entertainer/Actress" with William Morris & Co., and "LAST of a dying breed."

Houston had her first No. 1 hit by the time she was 22, followed by a flurry of No. 1 songs, selling more than 50 million records in the United States alone. Her voice, an ideal blend of power, grace and beauty, made classics out of songs like "Saving All My Love For You," ''I Will Always Love You," ''The Greatest Love of All" and "I'm Every Woman." Her six Grammys were only a fraction of her many awards.

Bobbi Kristina inherited her mother's entire estate, but not her voice. Aside from the crew of her family's short-lived reality TV show "The Houstons: On Our Own," she has mostly appeared in online "selfies" and images captured by paparazzi.

She told Oprah that she wanted to sing, act and dance, like her mother—and that she was coping as best she could.

But in the years after her mother's death, she made more headlines for drug use, weight loss and family disputes.

"Damn, lol, it's incredible how the world will judge you 4ANY&EVERYthing," she tweeted in March of 2014.

Bobbi Kristina was born into the tumult of a toxic relationship between two famous people.

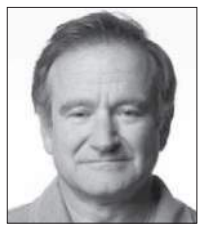
Houston met R&B star Bobby Brown at the Soul Train Music Awards in 1989. The gifted singer and her bad boy partner married in 1992, much to the dismay of Houston's family.

A year later, she gave birth to Bobbi Kristina, and her drug use took off. When Bobbi Kristina was only a toddler, Houston told S2SMagazine that she was a "functioning junkie." Her husband's struggles with addiction also have been well-chronicled, and around 2002, the family decamped to the Atlanta area, drawn to a healing service by a singer-turned evangelical preacher.

Robin Williams' wife, three children fight over his estate

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Robin Williams' children and wife have gone to court in a fight over the late comedian's estate.

In papers filed in December in San Francisco Superior Court, Williams' wife, Susan, says some of the late actor's personal items were taken without her permission and asks the court to exclude the contents of the Tiburon home that she shared with Williams from the jewelry, memorabilia and other items Williams said the children should have.



Williams

The children, Zachary, Zelda and Cody, counter that Susan Williams is "adding insult to a terrible injury" by trying to change the trust agreement and rob them of the late actor's clothing and other personal items.

"The Williams' children are heartbroken that Petitioner, Mr. Williams' wife of less than three years, has acted against his wishes by challenging the plans he so carefully made for his estate," attorneys for the children said in court papers.

James Wagstaffe, an attorney for Susan Williams, said Monday that his client was only seeking guidance from the court about the meaning of certain terms in the trust.

"This is not ugly," he said. "I would not say this is anticipated to be a highly contested proceeding."

An attorney for the children, Allan Mayer, declined to comment.

Williams died at his Tiburon home in August. The coroner ruled his death a suicide that resulted from asphyxia caused by hanging.

Susan Williams has said the actor and comedian was struggling with depression, anxiety and a recent diagnosis of Parkinson's disease.

Williams had publicly acknowledged periodic struggles with substance abuse, and he had entered a substance abuse program shortly before his death. According to the coroner's report, his wife told an investigator that Williams did not go there because of recent drug or alcohol abuse, but rather to reaffirm the principles of his rehabilitation.

Williams' trust granted his children his memorabilia and awards in the entertainment industry and some other specific personal items, according to court documents. Susan Williams says that because he wanted her to continue to live at the Tiburon home, it makes sense that he intended only for his children to have the specific personal items he delineated that were kept at another home he owned in Napa.

"Any other interpretation would lead to Mrs. Williams' home being stripped while Mrs. Williams still lives there," her attorneys wrote.

The children dispute that interpretation, saying there were no specific limits on the location of those items.

The two sides also disagree over items put in storage, watches Williams owned and his memorabilia.

Another viewership, social media record for Super Bowl

NEW YORK (AP)—An estimated 114.4 million people watched New England's thrilling win over Seattle, making it the fifth time in six years that a Super Bowl game has set a record for the most-watched event in U.S. television history.

The viewership eclipses the 112.2 million who watched Seattle beat Denver in the 2014 game, the Nielsen company said. The game also set standards for social media and online.

"Right now the NFL and the Super Bowl are defying media gravity," Mark Lazarus, NBC Sports Group chairman, said Monday. With the buildup involving the league's two top teams and a controversy over the inflation of footballs in the Patriots' conference championship, the game may have set another record even without the compelling finish, he said.

But that finish—a circus catch to put the Seahawks on the doorstep of a last-minute win and a game-saving interception by the Patriots' Malcolm Butler—kept viewers glued to the tube. An estimated 120.3 million people were watching during the last 10 minutes that the game was being shown, according to Nielsen. Lazarus said there were likely even more viewers, because Nielsen doesn't count people watching in sports bars, for example.

The ratings attest to the continued strength of the NFL as a television property despite a year of controversy over the league's response to domestic violence, and also to the ongoing power of live events to bring viewers together before their televisions.

Katy Perry has bragging rights, too. The singer's halftime performance was seen by 118.5 million people, the biggest audience ever for the halftime entertainment dating back to 1991, according to Nielsen.

Facebook said an estimated 65 million people conversed about the game on the social media site, more than any other Super Bowl and second only to two World Cup games last year for most talked-about events. There were some 265 million individual posts, comments or "likes," according to Facebook.

The moment drawing the most Facebook comments was just after the Patriots sealed the 28-24 victory, with the second being when Perry soared through stadium for her "Firework" finale to her show.

Twitter estimated there were 28.4 million tweets posted between the kickoff and 30 minutes after the game's conclusion, surpassing last year's game to be the most tweeted-about Super Bowl ever. It was second only to the 35.6 million tweets sent about last year's World Cup semifinal between Brazil and Germany.

Butler's interception really set the Twitter engines revving, with an estimated 395,000 tweets per minute, with 379,000 tweets per minute coming when the game actually ended, according to Twitter.

The television record came despite other options to view it. NBC Sports offered a live stream of the game to desktop computers and tablets, and an average of 800,000 people per minute were following the game in this manner, according to Adobe Analytics. Last year's game streamed by Fox had an average audience of 528,000 viewers.

An additional 600,000 watched the game with Spanish-language announcers on the NBC Universo cable network, Lazarus said.

For NBC Universal, the true value of broadcasting the game may be learned in the next few weeks. The company advertised upcoming shows on NBC, USA and E! Entertainment, and tried to drive viewers to the struggling "Today" show by featuring an interview with President Barack Obama by that show's Savannah Guthrie during the pregame.

An estimated 26.5 million people kept their sets on to watch an episode of NBC's "The Blacklist" following the game, making it the most-watched scripted program on the network in more than a decade.

A special edition of the "Tonight" show had 9.8 million viewers, Fallon's second-biggest audience after his debut last year.

Meanwhile, the digital video recorder maker TiVo reported that the top commercial played back by its users was Budweiser's "lost dog" spot. The second most played-back was the public service announcement about domestic violence involving a woman's 911 call for help.

Given the game's large audience, that indicates the ad was a real conversation-starter on the issue of domestic violence, said Tara Maitra, TiVo's senior vice president and general manager of content and media sales.

TiVo's ad ranking is also a reflection of the more serious tone taken by advertisers, she said. In the past, humorous and sometimes raunchy ads have generated the most TiVo playbacks.

Ex-rap mogul 'Suge' Knight charged with murder

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former hip-hop music mogul Marion "Suge" Knight was charged Monday with murder and attempted murder after he struck two men with his pickup truck last week.

Knight

Prosecutors allege that Knight intended to run down a friend and another man after an argument on a movie set. One of the men was killed.

Attorney James Blatt says Knight accidentally ran over the men on Thursday as he tried to escape a vicious attack. He turned himself in to police on Friday.

Knight's initial bail of $2 million was revoked Monday after a court commissioner agreed with authorities that he was a potential flight risk and could intimidate witnesses.

The ruling came after detectives told the bail commissioner that the 49-year-old founder of Death Row Records could face a lengthy prison sentence because of a violent criminal past and had the potential to intimidate witnesses, Los Angeles County sheriff's spokeswoman Nicole Nishida said.

Knight is scheduled to appear in court in Compton on Tuesday to be arraigned on four felony counts, which include murder in the death of 55-year-old Terry Carter, "attempted, willful, deliberate, and premeditated murder" involving victim 51-year-old Cle "Bone" Sloan, plus two charges of hit-and-run.

Knight was out on bail in a separate robbery case when the men were hit.

Knight was at the center of one of the most notorious rap conflicts of the 1990s, pitting Tupac Shakur against Biggie Smalls in an East Coast-West Coast rivalry.

Knight was sent to prison for nearly five years for badly beating a rival with Shakur at a Las Vegas hotel, just hours before Shakur was fatally shot while riding in Knight's car just east of the Strip.

In the current case, Knight struck two men with his pickup truck in a Compton burger stand parking lot. The collision killed his friend, Carter, a founder and owner of Heavyweight Records who was viewed as a local father figure and tried to help mentor young men in the community, said Doug Young, a friend and hip-hop music promoter. The collision injured Sloan, an actor and film consultant.

Authorities have said Knight argued with Sloan who was working earlier at a location for the film "Straight Outta Compton" about the rise of the rap group N.W.A. Knight was told by sheriff's deputies providing security to leave the film set.

The argument resumed in the parking lot where Knight and Sloan exchanged punches through a window of the pickup truck before the two men were run down, authorities said.

Blatt has said Knight was attacked by four people, including Sloan, and that Knight hit the gas and fled in fear.

Because a conviction in the case could result in Knight's third serious felony under California's three strikes sentencing law, Knight could face up to life in prison if he's convicted.

Thursday's incident came less than six months after Knight was shot six times at a West Hollywood nightclub in August—the second shooting he has survived. No arrests have been made in that case.

Oscar nominees relax at annual luncheon before the big event

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Awards season is a stressful endeavor for even the most seasoned actor or actress, but at the Oscar nominee luncheon everyone is still a winner.

The annual event, which took place Monday at the Beverly Hilton, is one of the rare, low-pressure respites from the madness where over 150 nominees (out of 195), including the likes of Michael Keaton, Reese Witherspoon, Bradley Cooper, Rosamund Pike and Eddie Redmayne, can meet, mingle and enjoy each other's company before the golden statuettes are handed out on Feb. 22.

Best actress contender Julianne Moore ("Still Alice") said backstage that the luncheon feels more like a massive press junket where everyone is in the same movie than an actual competition.

"I've worked with so many of the other nominees," she said, adding that they've all gotten to know each other well on the monthslong awards trail.

Laura Dern, nominated for her supporting performance in "Wild," said that her Hollywood lineage has made events like this a homecoming of sorts. "Some of my best friends are in that room and happen to be nominated also," she said.

There was no tension between competing movies and casts in the ballroom either.

AP
Reese Witherspoon arrives at the 87th Academy Awards nominees luncheon at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Monday, Feb. 2, 2015, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Oprah Winfrey, a producer of best picture nominee "Selma," greeted best actor nominee Keaton ("Birdman") at the luncheon and went in for a hug. Keaton, battling a cold, tried to avoid the contact, but Winfrey hugged him anyway and gave him a high-five. "What a ride!" she exclaimed.

Texas establishes 'Chris Kyle Day' 2 years after his death

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Two years after Chris Kyle's death, and days before the man accused of killing him goes to trial, the retired Navy SEAL depicted in the blockbuster movie "American Sniper" received a state day Monday in his honor.

Gov. Greg Abbott signed a proclamation declaring Feb. 2 "Chris Kyle Day" in Texas, where Kyle was raised and lived after serving in Iraq. Flags statewide were to fly Monday at half-staff.

"As governor, I am proclaiming this to be Chris Kyle Day, but in doing so, as Chris would have it, we are also recognizing every man and woman who has ever worn the uniform of the United States Military," Abbott said, flanked by a dozen bipartisan lawmakers.

Abbott called Kyle—reputed to be the deadliest sniper in American history—"the face of a legion of warriors who have led the mightiest military in the history of the world."

Four years after he retired from service, he and neighbor Chad Littlefield were shot and killed at a North Texas gun range. Accused in their deaths is former Marine Eddie Ray Routh, whom the two men were trying to help. Routh has been described by family as a troubled veteran who was hospitalized for mental illnesses, including post-traumatic stress disorder.

An Abbott spokeswoman said the success of the movie based on Kyle's autobiography and the upcoming trial were not driving forces behind Monday's announcement. An effort is underway to make Chris Kyle Day an annual event.

Jury selection begins Thursday in Stephenville, about 150 miles north of Austin, in the trial of Routh, 27, who is charged with one count of capital murder and two counts of murder.

Some 800 people have been summoned for jury duty, said court spokeswoman Wanda Pringle, compared with the typical jury pool of 175 in Erath County. Once seated, the jury will be under orders not to discuss the case.

Routh's attorney, J. Warren St. John, has said that Routh will plead not guilty by reason of insanity. If convicted, he could face the death penalty.

Finding jurors who haven't heard about Chris Kyle could prove to be difficult, said Allen Place Jr., a criminal defense attorney and spokesman for the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

"We want everything to be even-handed, and if there was any pretrial publicity that intends a different spin on anything, then we should all be upset, regardless of where it comes from," Place said.

Separated husband feels ambushed by stealth photo

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been separated for a year. I have been seeing another woman in a city nearby, and my wife is aware of it.

I took my lady friend out for dinner recently while visiting her in her town. A couple from home who know my wife and me were also eating at this restaurant. I greeted them as we walked by their table.

The next day, my wife approached me and showed me a picture of me and my date that had been taken by this couple without my knowledge. I was furious about the invasion of privacy. My wife claims I am just angry because I got "caught." If I were worried about getting caught, I wouldn't have been in a public restaurant in a city frequented by people who know me.

What are your thoughts on people who secretly take photos like this? Do they really think they are doing their civic duty?

VIOLATED IN IOWA

DEAR VIOLATED: You have a right to your privacy. If you and your wife have been separated for a year, then with whom you socialize is your own business. The same applies to your wife.

I fail to see what kind of "civic duty" this couple was performing by taking a picture of you and your date. Frankly, I think it was in poor taste and served no good purpose.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 30 and have felt pretty happy with my life. I enjoy my job, my social life, staying fit and extensive stays abroad. I thought I was going along OK, even though there is still room for improvement.

My biggest (or most obvious) shortcoming, however, is that I'm not attractive in any way, and guys have never been attracted to me, so any chance at a future with someone is not an option. I thought I was learning to accept it, but it's harder than I thought — especially because of reactions from other people.

Now that I'm older, people look at me with pity or treat me strangely. I don't know how to handle the constant questioning about whether I have found someone yet. It is not going to happen. Is there something wrong with me? I'm starting to feel like a total loser and complete failure.

LOSER IN LOVE

DEAR LOSER IN LOVE: If you are asked whether you have "found someone yet," tell the person the truth, that Chris Pine hasn't found YOU yet.

There are worse things than singlehood. You have so many positive things going for you in your life, it's time you recognized it. The person who deserves pity isn't someone who is single; it's someone who is trapped in a marriage to a husband she doesn't love or who treats her badly.

Your problem isn't that you are a "loser"; it's that you have low self-esteem. You could benefit from talking to a counselor about this, because everyone has something to offer, including you, and for others to appreciate your finer qualities, you need to stop being so hard on yourself.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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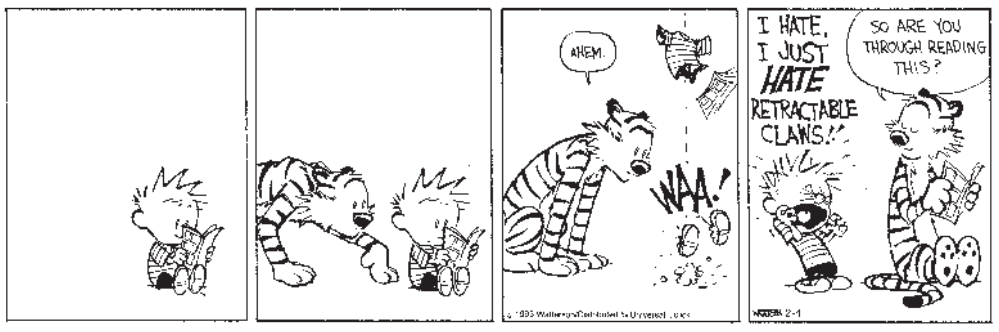
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

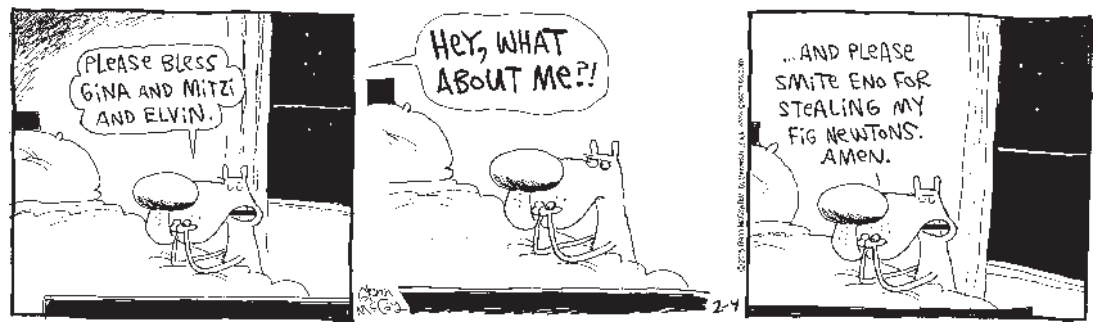
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY, DAD?
SORRY, HONEY. CAN'T TALK.
DADDY MESSED UP AND THIS PROJECT HAS TO BE WRITTEN BY SATURDAY.
TAP TAP
MOM JUST WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU WANTED A BAGEL.
YEAH. GOOD CALL. JUST SLIP IT IN MY MOUTH AND I'LL TRY TO REMEMBER TO CHEW.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Greek X
4 Viral video critter, often
7 Took off
8 Paycheck extra
10 Wing-shaped
11 Dorothy's Em, for one
13 Terrible twins?
16 Chances, for short
17 Parishioners, collectively
18 Yang counterpart
19 Spinal column component
20 Bygone carmaker
21 Impel
23 Idaho's capital
25 Be sickeningly sweet
26 Whine like a cat
27 Cartoonist Chast
28 Call at sea
30 Omega preceder
33 Versatile athletes
36 Consecrate with oil
37 Self-evident truth
38 Biological division
39 Festive
40 Golf aid
41 Type measures

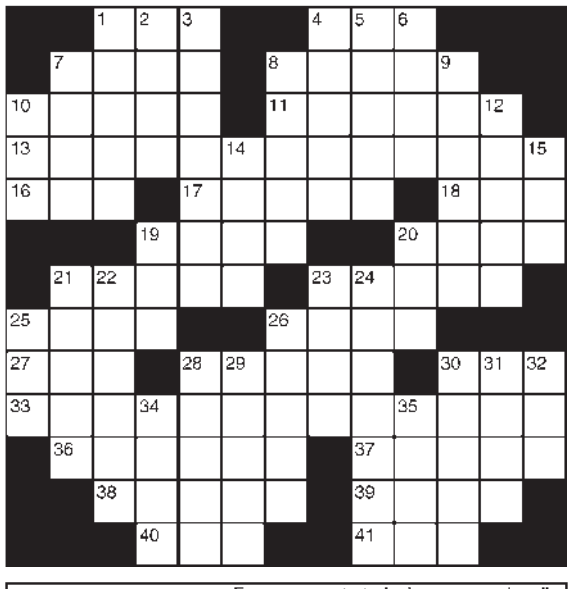
DOWN

1 Santa —
2 Flavor enhancer
3 Pastoral
4 Marilyn Milian's workplace
5 Bug
6 Ballet frill
7 Dud
8 Wax-and-dye art
9 Prophetesses
10 Fuss
12 Lose a syllable
14 Relaxation
15 Halves of 41-Across
19 Parch
20 Lubricant
21 Plant life
22 Leaking slowly
23 Wild party
24 Not mere anger
25 Old PC monitor
26 Lightbulb stat
28 Type of skirt
29 Scene of action
30 Buckets
31 Old portico
32 Doctrine
34 Versifier
35 Physical

Solution time: 24 mins.

B	R	F	W	■	I	A	P	■	C	R	I	B
L	I	A	H	■	U	S	A	■	L	A	I	E
O	G	R	E	■	C	A	N	T	I	C	L	E
C	A	N	T	A	I	P	■	H	F	F	I	S
■	■	■	C	A	D	■	V	E	N	■	■	■
P	I	T	H	Y	■	C	A	N	T	I	N	A
I	R	E	■	■	K	O	I	■	■	L	U	G
C	A	N	T	E	E	N	■	B	A	L	S	A
■	■	■	I	V	Y	■	V	I	Z	■	■	■
S	P	I	N	E	■	C	A	N	T	A	T	A
C	A	N	T	A	E	L	L	■	E	M	I	R
A	L	O	E	■	M	O	E	■	C	O	K	E
M	E	N	D	■	O	P	T	■	S	K	I	S

Yesterday's answer 2-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Oscar De La Hoya, 42; Gabrielle Anwar, 45; Clint Black, 53; Alice Cooper, 67.

Happy Birthday: Keep emotions under control and do what has to be done if you want to get ahead this year. Personal and financial adjustments will bring good results as long as you follow through. Making noise without taking action will cost you financially, emotionally or professionally. Good fortune can be yours if you take action. Your numbers are 4, 9, 14, 22, 27, 31, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Energy is up, and romance is highlighted. Do your best to get your responsibilities out of the way so you can enjoy the rest of your day. Don't slow down because someone disagrees with you. Be gracious but focus on your success. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Unexpected problems will develop. Refuse to give in to someone trying to force you to make a decision. You have to feel confident about your plans before moving forward. If something sounds too good to be true, take a pass. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Your curiosity will result in an extraordinary conversation with someone quite different from you. Find out as much as you can, but don't believe everything you hear. Make changes based on your life, not on what works for someone else. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Give your very best no matter what everyone around you does. Someone will recognize your contribution and suggest a partnership. Don't let flattery cost you. Negotiate a deal that keeps whatever arrangement you come up with equal. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't waste energy fighting over a trivial matter. Consider how you should move forward and whether a difficult relationship is worth the trouble. An honest assessment and serious talk will help you change the dynamics or help you move on. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be faced with demands if you let someone manipulate you. A relationship with someone you thought you could trust will be costly. A practical approach to the way you move forward will be needed to protect against heartache. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stop procrastinating and worrying and have a little fun. You can turn an ordinary day into one of love, romance, creativity and getting down to business if you avoid disputes with pushy people. Talks will lead to positive plans. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't pay attention to petty individuals. Surround yourself with good friends who will help you reach your goals instead of criticizing everything you do. Be brave and follow your intuition and your heart, not someone trying to lead you astray. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be inclined to brag, and with good reason, but do so knowing that someone will try to make you look bad by twisting your words. If you have a secret, keep it to yourself until sharing personal information is more appropriate. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your timing will be accurate, allowing you to put your plans in motion. A tempting investment will develop, but before you agree, make sure it's the right fit for you. If it jeopardizes your stability or security, take a pass. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): The more you do to improve an important arrangement, the better. Share ideas and make plans to move forward. This is a day for change and positive action. Take the initiative and make things happen. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Learn from those with more experience than you, and you will find a way to get ahead. Offering a helping hand will instill the know-how necessary to develop a style that will separate you from the competition. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are engaging and imaginative. You are a leader and a crusader.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

								3
			6	3			1	7
		2			9		6	
	9	6	3			4		
3				5		7		
	2	8	7			1		6
	7		2			6		8
		1			3	9		2
						3	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	7	2	8	6	3	9	1
3	1	6	7	4	9	2	5	8
2	8	9	1	5	3	4	7	6
4	5	1	9	3	2	6	8	7
6	7	2	8	1	4	5	3	9
9	3	8	6	7	5	1	4	2
1	9	4	3	6	7	8	2	5
7	6	3	5	2	8	9	1	4
8	2	5	4	9	1	7	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CLIMBING MOUNT FUJI Solution: 13 letters

E	N	I	M	A	G	N	E	K	D	E	R	C	A	S
R	M	H	K	S	K	S	H	R	I	N	E	S	L	N
S	U	O	O	C	C	A	O	S	Y	M	B	O	L	O
U	M	O	S	J	O	F	W	T	T	T	P	P	R	W
B	O	R	T	S	R	C	M	A	N	E	A	A	A	C
A	T	O	U	E	O	I	L	U	G	I	T	T	P	A
S	O	U	H	T	N	Ⓛ	S	A	R	U	H	H	E	P
H	S	T	A	S	A	Ⓐ	B	Y	O	A	C	S	A	P
I	U	E	K	U	P	Ⓥ	T	Y	O	O	Y	H	K	E
R	H	S	U	G	A	Ⓐ	K	I	R	S	V	A	I	D
I	S	Y	L	U	J	O	O	L	O	R	H	C	M	N
A	N	C	R	A	T	E	R	C	O	N	E	I	N	A
M	O	U	N	T	G	O	T	E	M	B	A	H	D	S
S	H	O	J	I	K	O	O	S	B	M	I	L	C	A
S	U	Y	A	M	A	Y	I	M	O	N	I	J	U	F

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Alcock, August, Blossom, Cherry, Climbs, Cone, Crater, Fujinomiya, Gotemba, Haku, Honshu, Huts, Japan, July, Kawaguchi, Ken Ga Mine, Lava, Motosu, Mount, Murayama, National, Paths, Peak, Rock, Routes, Rutherford, Sacred, Sand, Shinto, Shojiko, Shrines, Sir John, Slope, Snowcapped, Subashiri, Suyama, Symbol, Tate, Tokyo, Tour, Yoshida

Yesterday's Answer: The Birdcage

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 or 19 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

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Bridge Immigration Investments is seeking a highly motivated and driven Business Professional with a proven track record of success to support our growing Residence and Citizenship-by-Investment business, primarily focusing on our US EB5 Visa Program.

Job Descriptions:
- Collect necessary information from related parties and generate various reports such as sales reports and market analysis in English or Chinese;
- Translate relevant news / articles and other information in different languages (English/Chinese) and share the information with management;
- Assist the CEO to create monthly reports;
- Assist Senior Management to prepare presentation materials in Chinese;
- Work with our IT department to translate / add Chinese content on our websites
- Perform general administration duties including but not limited to filing, meeting preparation, travel bookings, online research etc.;
- Support the CEO in day-to-day operations

Job Requirements:
- Bachelor Degree in Business Management, Administration and Marketing or related disciplines;
- 2 years or above working experience and experience in the legal, financial services, real estate or 'immigrant investor' industries preferred
- Well versed with PC applications like MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Chinese Word

Processing;
- Excellent command of both spoken and written English and Chinese;
- Self-motivated, good writing and presentation skills
- Energetic and outgoing personality

Scope
- Salary: From USD 1,500 plus annual bonus. Short term accommodation will be provided.
- Applicants will need to work in our head office in Saipan then may be expected to travel between head office and China with the CEO

Contact
A full Curriculum Vitae and Covering Letter should be sent to Philip James at phil.james@bccnmi.com

Bridge Capital, LLC, PMB 29 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

Executive Assistant Job Description

Our fast-growing international investment company, based in the CNMI, is looking for an Executive Assistant to support the Vice President/Chief Operational Officer with his day-to-day administrative needs and organizational duties. The responsibilities of this position include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Responsible for the effective coordination and follow-up of the activities and commitments of the VP/COO by producing and managing a master calendar of key events, dates, and deadlines that are critical to the conduct of the company's business.
- Researches, prioritizes, and follows up on incoming issues and concerns addressed to the VP/COO and determines the appropriate course of action, referral or response. Exercises sound judgment by keeping the VP/COO abreast of any issues that may arise internally and/or externally which could potentially impact the VP/COO or the company as a whole.
- Composes and prepares correspondence that may be confidential in nature. Communicates with a high degree of discretion, via phone, email, and US mail to directors, councils, management, staff, public, vendors, and other organizations.
- Prioritizes conflicting demands; handles matters expeditiously, proactively and follows through on projects to successful completion.
- Provides high level research and editorial support to the VP/COO.
- Arranges corporate travel and meetings by developing itineraries and agendas; booking flights and other transportation; arranging lodging and meeting accommodations.
- Completes projects and special assignments by establishing objectives; determining priorities; managing time; gaining cooperation of others; monitoring progress; problem solving; making adjustments to plans.
- Organizes relevant documents to be reviewed by VP/COO to be catalogued into the Company's database.
- Performs other duties as necessary.

Requirements:
- Excellent oral and written communication and human relation skills.
- Must work well in a team environment and must be able to build and maintain effective working relationships.
- Ability to maintain and protect the confidentiality of information.
- Must be poised, patient, courteous, and maintain a professional manner.
- Willingness to work a flexible schedule to achieve the needs of the company.
- Must be detail oriented, results oriented, and be able to multi-task and work in a fast paced environment.
- Must work well under pressure, set and meet deadlines, be able to manage several priorities in a day.
- Must be dependable, adaptable, creative, and self-motivated.
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent work experience is required.
- Administrative support in legal industry or related field preferred.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite.

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or email at reneacia.sannicolas@bccnmi.com

Business Development Manager - China

Bridge Immigration Investments is seeking a highly motivated and driven Business Professional with a proven track record of success to support our growing Residence and Citizenship-by-Investment business, primarily focusing on our US EB5 Visa Program.

Core Competencies and Experience
- You are energetic, self-motivated, outgoing, hands-on and willing to take the initiative, with very strong negotiation skills
- You are able to self-manage and are goal and results driven
- Your interpersonal, oral and written communication, presentation and organizational skills are excellent
- You demonstrate passion, persistence, creativity and a determination to get things done
- You have verifiable success in working in the legal, financial services, real estate or 'immigrant investor' industries
- Knowledge and experience of the 'immigrant investor' market is preferable but not essential
- An undergraduate degree in Law, Business, Economics or Marketing is ideal
- You must have a willingness to travel
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office products including, but not limited to, Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint
- Excellent command of written and spoken English and Chinese.

Responsibilities
- Reporting to the CEO of the Saipan office, you will be accountable for generating significant business revenue each year, and meeting agreed sales and business targets as defined by management
- Developing new business via developing sales and marketing channels with Marketing Agents in China
- Working with other internal departments to develop appropriate solutions in order to maximize business success
- Planning, preparing, and executing high impact meetings with client prospects and potential partners
- Helping with the preparation and translation of our marketing collaterals in to Chinese
- Maximizing revenue growth with existing accounts and our partner base
- Representing Bridge Immigration at industry events and conferences

Scope
- Salary: From USD 2,500 plus excellent commission driven compensation (depending on experience). Accommodation in Saipan can be provided for the first 2 months.
- Applicants will be primarily based in our Saipan head office but will be expected to travel reasonably regularly
- Applicants with networks and interest in developing the China market will be considered for this role

Contact
A full Curriculum Vitae and Covering Letter should be sent to Philip James at phil.james@bccnmi.com

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Brady, in 'midst of my career' at 37, set on more titles

PHOENIX (AP)—Tom Brady knows what's next: more Super Bowl wins.

At least he hopes so.

The most successful quarterback of his era was still riding the high of his fourth NFL championship on the morning after New England's 28-24 victory over Seattle. Brady had every right to look back at his four touchdown passes against the NFL's top-ranked defense and beam. Instead, he was looking ahead.

"I am still kind of in the midst of my career," Brady said Monday before being presented with a car and his third Super Bowl MVP trophy, tying him with his boyhood idol, Joe Montana. "I just love the game. I love playing. I love representing our team."

That team—or previous versions of the Patriots he has quarterbacked—won three Super Bowls in four years, then lost in its next two trips to the big game. Brady knows how close the Patriots came to a third straight flop against the NFC champion, needing an interception with 20 seconds to go to clinch the crown.

"We've been on the other end of this two times in the last seven years, being ahead late in the game with the chance to win it, and not closing it out," Brady said of losses in 2008 and 2012 to the New York Giants. "I'm glad we had the opportunity to do it. Coach talked all week about how it was going to take all 60 minutes and it certainly did.

"It never broke our will. We were down 10 in the fourth quarter and (Seattle) being on the 1-yard line with 20 seconds left, but the guys never gave up. And you fight until the end and great things happen."

Brady knows all about great things, obviously. A two-time league MVP, he threw for four touchdowns against the NFL's stingiest defense, and led a comeback from a 10-point deficit through three quarters. He connected on all eight of his throws on the decisive drive that ended with a 3-yard TD pass to Julian Edelman.

Brady is 37 and has said he hopes to play well into his 40s, and he works hard to stay in top physical shape. So he doesn't see his winning toss to Edelman as his final Super Bowl moment.

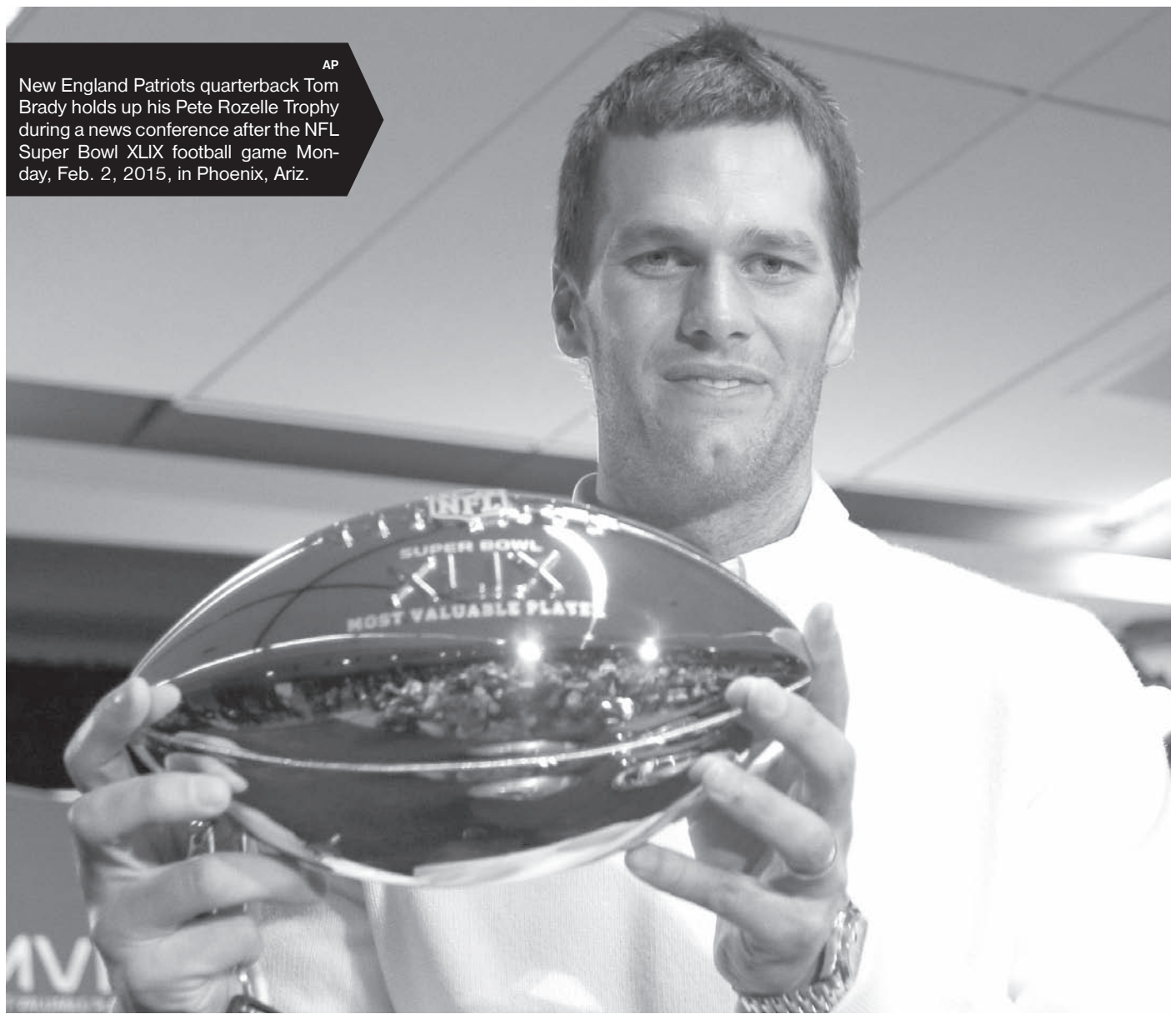
But he certainly recognizes how difficult the journey is.

"Yeah, absolutely," he said. "I was a young kid when we won those first three. I know in `04 after we beat the Eagles, I was like, `I'm just ready for this to be over, get the offseason started,' just because we had experienced it. Obviously, with some perspective of that game, it's a hard thing to get here and then it's a hard thing to win the game.

"Playing against the other best team, obviously, one play here, one play there, all things change, and we've been on the other end of that, too. So I'm just proud that we really got a chance to finish it out."

AP

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady holds up his Pete Rozelle Trophy during a news conference after the NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game Monday, Feb. 2, 2015, in Phoenix, Ariz.



His coach, Bill Belichick, recognizes the value of a likely first-ballot Hall of Fame quarterback running his offense. When the Patriots were being dominated by the Seahawks in the third quarter Sunday, Belichick understood that if they could keep it close, they had the closer.

"He's a great player," Belichick said. "It's been a great privilege to coach Tom for the last 15 years, 14 years as starting quarterback. We have a great relationship. We meet on a regular basis weekly several times.

"I can't think of a more deserving player than Tom to be the recipient of the accolades that he has this week, and particularly last night and today here. He's our leader. He competes as well as any player I've ever coached. He's well-prepared. He has great poise and great presence. He may not always be perfect, as it is for any of us. We all have our moments, but Tom, like many other players on our team, is the guy that fights to the end and competes until the end.

"There's no player I respect more for that than Tom. That's been a great pillar of strength for our football team for the past decade and a half."

And, according to Brady, for a while into the future.

Seattle coach Pete Carroll stands by decision to pass

PHOENIX (AP)—Less than 16 hours later, Seahawks coach Pete Carroll was still stunned by the outcome while defending the decision to call a pass from the 1-yard line in the Super Bowl's closing seconds, a choice that will long be debated.

So close to another celebration. So close to becoming the next NFL dynasty.

"The shock of disappointment that this game gets away from us and goes another way right at the finish line," a somber Carroll said Monday, before Seattle returned to the Pacific Northwest after the 28-24 loss to New England. "It's something that we have to deal with that in the long run of it will make us stronger, and we'll be able to put it in some kind of perspective. It's pretty hard right now."

Carroll stood by the decision for Russell Wilson to throw from the New England 1 with 26 seconds left, a pass that was intended for Ricardo Lockette and intercepted by Malcolm Butler.

Carroll also defended offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell, who was widely criticized for calling a pass with Marshawn Lynch in the Seattle backfield.

"We're so lucky to have him. He's been absolutely instrumental in everything that we have done," Carroll said. "There is no reservation in that thought, and don't make it out like there is, because he is an awesome guy on our staff, and he is crucially important to our future as well."

Carroll said the clock and the Seahawks' timeout situation dictated they would have to throw once and possibly twice from the 1. He gave credit to Butler for making the interception and fellow cornerback Brandon Browner for jamming up wide receiver Jermaine Kearse on the play, creating open space for Butler to break on the ball.

Seattle decided to throw after seeing New England bring in its goal-line defenders, Carroll said. The Seahawks were also attempting to melt as much time from the clock with Tom Brady standing on the other sideline.

"We easily could have gone otherwise, but when they sent their goal-line guys in, I know that we have the advantage on the matchups in the passing game so let's throw it. It's OK," Carroll said. "One of those downs we were likely to throw the ball - maybe two of those downs we would have thrown the ball depending on how we had to save the clock. We had to get all of our plays."

SIDEBAR

Source: Edelman cleared to play after concussion test

PHOENIX (AP)—Julian Edelman passed a concussion test after a big hit in the Super Bowl appeared to leave him groggy, allowing him to continue and catch the winning touchdown a few minutes later, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Monday.

The Patriots top wide receiver was leveled by Seahawks safety Kam Chancellor after a 21-yard completion with just under 11 minutes left in New England's 28-24 win over Seattle on Sunday night.

After that series, Edelman was checked on the New England sideline by medical staff and an independent neurologist and cleared to return, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Monday he doesn't handle medical issues.

"I'm a coach and I had a deal with our trainers and doctors," he told reporters during a news conference the morning after winning the NFL title. "They're the medical experts and they don't call plays, and I'm the coach and I don't get involved in the medical part. When they clear players to play, then if we want to play them we play them. The plays we call, I don't have to get approval from them. It's a good setup."

Under the NFL's concussion protocol, team doctors are ultimately responsible for diagnosing concussions and deciding whether to allow players to return to games, though independent neurologists help on sidelines and unaffiliated athletic trainers review replays to help recognize potential injuries.

Before a player can return to a game, teams are required to complete a two-page sideline assessment, looking for obvious signs of a concussion and testing other things like orientation, concentration and recall. The protocol is then compared with baseline tests taken in the preseason.

Edelman missed the last two regular-season games with a concussion and led the team with 92 receptions. He played in all three postseason games and led the Patriots with 109 yards on nine catches in the Super Bowl.

After the game, Edelman said, "we're not allowed to talk about injuries."

Brady, who won his third Super Bowl MVP award, said Edelman ran a great route on the play but Chancellor was able to get a "good shot on him."

"Yeah, he took a big hit on what I thought, obviously, (was) one of the big plays of the game," Brady said. "He got up and kept running. Obviously, they ruled him down, but it was a huge hit."

Edelman stayed in the game and four snaps later, caught a 21-yard pass to the 4. Two plays later, Brady threw one of his four touchdowns to Danny Amendola to cut Seattle's lead to 24-21.

With Edelman on the sideline after that touchdown, the Seahawks went 3-and-out. Edelman made a fair catch on the punt and was back on the field for the start of the Patriots winning drive with just under seven minutes remaining.

On the third play of the 10-play series he caught a 9-yard completion. And on the 10th play, from the 3-yard line, he spun around backup cornerback Tharold Simon on the left side and caught a 3-yard scoring pass for the 28-24 lead with 2:02 left.

"Coach called a return route," Edelman said. "They hit hard so we had to take advantage of our ... strengths (which) are our quickness and we were able to do that."

Pelicans snap Hawks' 19-game winning streak, 115-100

AP
Atlanta Hawks guard Jeff Teague (0) loses the ball as he drives to the basket between New Orleans Pelicans guard Eric Gordon (10) and guard Tyreke Evans (1) in the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Monday, Feb. 2, 2015.

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Paul Millsap and his Atlanta teammates didn't sound terribly concerned about the end of the Hawks' franchise-record 19-game winning streak.

After all, the Hawks' 115-100 loss to surging New Orleans on Monday night—in a game marked by Anthony Davis' ferocious play - was only Atlanta's third defeat in 36 games.

"We've got a lot of season left," Millsap said when asked to put the recent winning streak in perspective. "Nineteen games, that's good. We lost one—19-1 now. So it's just regrouping. ... We can't let one loss turn into two losses."

Davis, returning from a left groin strain that sidelined him one game, had 29 points and 13 rebounds to help the Pelicans win for the sixth time in seven games. New Orleans' recent run of good form has included victories over other contending squads, such as Dallas and the Los Angeles Clippers, and has pulled the Pelicans (26-22) within a game of Phoenix (28-22) for eighth place in the Western Conference.

"We just need to continue to do what we've been doing," Davis said. "The past couple games, we've been rebounding, defending, sharing the ball. We don't care who scores. That's what we have to do."

That sounds a lot like the recipe Atlanta has been using to pile up an Eastern Conference-leading 40 victories.

"They had us on our heels from the very beginning," Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "They deserve a lot of credit for us not starting well.

"Give our guys a lot of credit for a lot of good work over the last month," Budenholzer added. "Tonight wasn't our night. I am very proud of them. We'll get back to work."

Jeff Teague scored 21 for Atlanta, but the Hawks fell behind by double digits in the first quarter and trailed the rest of the way, getting within single digits for only a few brief stints.

Eric Gordon scored 20 points for New Orleans, while Tyreke Evans scored 15 points and tied a season high with 12 assists for the fourth time in five games.

Millsap had 15 points and Kyle Korver 12 for the Hawks, who made only seven of 22 3-point attempts.

Omer Asik grabbed 17 rebounds for New Orleans, which outrebounded Atlanta 52-32. Davis grabbed eight of his rebounds on the offensive end, including one on a missed 3 that he corralled with his right hand and slammed home in one roundhouse motion.

Ryan Anderson added 15 points for the Pelicans, who outshot Atlanta, 50 percent (43 of 86) to 44.9 percent (40 of 89).

Atlanta briefly got as close as seven in the third quarter when DeMarre Carroll, returning from a strained left Achilles that sidelined him two games, hit back-to-back 3s to make it 60-53.

But New Orleans kept scoring, and soon after went back up by 12 when Evans banked in a 3 late in the shot clock.

Gordon's minutes were limited by foul trouble, but his backup, Jimmer Fredette, responded to additional playing time with 10 points, including a 3 that put the Pelicans up by 17 in the fourth quarter. Soon after, Asik's putback dunk gave New Orleans its largest lead at 101-82 and the crowd erupted, seemingly sensing there was no way Atlanta could recover during the last 6:03.

Cavaliers 97, 76ers 84

In Cleveland, Kyrie Irving scored 24 points, LeBron James added 18 points and 11 assists, and the Cleveland Cavaliers staggered to their 11th straight win.

The winning streak is Cleveland's longest since reeling off 13 in a row—a franchise record—in 2010, the last season of James' first stint with the club. The Cavs had trouble putting away the young Philadelphia Sixers, who did all they could to stay close but don't have the firepower to keep up with Irving, James and one of the NBA's hottest teams.

Atlanta entered the week on a 19-game win streak.

Jerami Grant and Robert Covington scored 18 apiece for the Sixers.

Thunder 104, Magic 97

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook's second triple-double of the season and 10th of his career helped the Oklahoma City Thunder defeat the Orlando Magic without the injured Kevin Durant.

Westbrook, an All-Star point guard, had 25 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds.

Durant sat out with a sprained big toe on his left foot. He has played in just 22 games this season, having missed time earlier in the season with a sprained right ankle and a broken bone in his right foot.

Victor Oladipo scored 22 points and Nikola Vucevic scored 20 points for the Magic, who lost their ninth straight.

Hornets 92, Wizards 88

In Washington, Al Jefferson had 18 points and 12 rebounds Monday night, leading the Charlotte Hornets past the Washington Wizards.

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist added 13 points and 13 rebounds, Brian Roberts scored 18 points, and Gerald Henderson put in 17 for the Hornets, who have won six of eight. They went 10-4 in January despite losing Kemba Walker to a knee injury that will keep him sidelined at least six more weeks.

John Wall, who continues to battle a sprained right ankle and migraine-like headaches, scored 16 points with 10 assists for the Wizards, who have dropped three straight.

Bradley Beal led Washington with 18 points and a season-high 11 rebounds.

Bucks 82, Raptors 75

In Toronto, Khris Middleton scored 25 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 12 points and 12 rebounds, and the short-handed Milwaukee Bucks snapped a six-game losing streak against the Toronto Raptors.

Reduced to nine players when guard Brandon Knight was ruled out before the game with a sore right quadriceps muscle, Milwaukee lost another body when guard O.J. Mayo was ejected after picking up a double technical at 4:07 of the second.

Jonas Valanciunas had 12 points and 13 rebounds, DeMar DeRozan scored 16 and Lou Williams 12 for the Raptors, who had won six straight overall.

Nets 102, Clippers 100

In New York, Jarrett Jack made a tiebreaking jumper with 1.3 seconds left, and the Brooklyn Nets used a late rally to beat the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Nets ended a seven-game home losing streak by erasing a nine-point deficit in the final 1:35, getting two 3-pointers from Alan Anderson—one a four-point play—one from Joe Johnson and another from Deron Williams in his return from an 11-game absence.

After Chris Paul's layup tied it at 100 with 8.6 seconds to go, Jack lofted a jumper over 6-foot-11 center DeAndre Jordan.

Brook Lopez scored 24 points and Johnson had 22 for the Nets, who snapped an overall four-game skid and won at home for the first time since beating Sacramento on Dec. 29.

Mavericks 100, Timberwolves 94

In Dallas, Monta Ellis scored 23 points and the Dallas Mavericks won their first game without injured point guard Rajon Rondo, beating Minnesota in the first game in nearly three months for Timberwolves point guard Ricky Rubio.

J.J. Barea had 10 points while starting in Rondo's place. Barea was only 4-of-14 shooting, but had the first and last field goals by Dallas along with two free throws with 17 seconds left to help hold off a comeback try by Minnesota.

Rubio, sidelined since severely spraining his left ankle Nov. 7, had 10 points on 4-of-9 shooting with four assists in 21 minutes.

Grizzlies 102, Suns 101

In Phoenix, Jeff Green converted a three-point play with 4.5 seconds to play as the Memphis Grizzlies rallied from seven down in the final 1:35 to beat the Phoenix Suns for the seventh straight time.

Marc Gasol blocked Markieff Morris' shot at the finish to preserve the victory.

The Grizzlies, who won their seventh in a row overall and 11th in the last 12 games, scored the final eight points after Isaiah Thomas' 3-pointer put Phoenix up 101-94 with 1:49 to play. Thomas scored all 24 of his points in the second half, 16 in the fourth quarter.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 23 points.

McIlroy switches focus to lawsuit against former agent

DUBLIN (AP)—Fresh off his first tournament win of the year, Rory McIlroy will switch his focus from the course to a courtroom on Tuesday for the start of his multi-million dollar case against his former management company.

The four-time major winner initiated the case against Dublin-based Horizon Sports Management and its leading agent at the end of 2013, claiming he was misled into signing a contract with the company.

McIlroy has said in court papers that he signed the contract at Horizon's Christmas party "in circumstances of great informality" and without having seen a draft of the agreement before it was given to him to sign.

McIlroy

Horizon is countersuing, claiming McIlroy owes it millions of dollars in commission.

McIlroy, who left Horizon to form his own management company in 2013, is expected to testify in court this week. He is coming off a victory at the Dubai Desert Classic on Sunday.

Speaking before the tournament, McIlroy said he hopes the court case "won't take that long, and we can get on with our lives."

"It's not something you want hanging over your head and it's not something I'd want anyone to go through, it's not a nice process," McIlroy said. "It's a shame it's gone this far and that two sides see things completely differently. The only way to sort it out is to get a judge to come in and tell us what to do."

The case could last up to eight weeks.

McIlroy said last week that he isn't expecting to practice much over the next two weeks, and will spend the week before the Honda Classic, which starts Feb. 26, hitting with his coach Michael Bannon in Florida.

The Northern Irishman has started the year well, finishing second at the Abu Dhabi Championship in his first event of 2015 before winning in Dubai by three shots.

Sendin, Hutchinson top 8th Marianas Coffee Trail Run

Charlie Sendin repeated his 2014 winning form and came in 20 seconds faster to finish first in the 8th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run last Jan. 24, finishing in 1:48:04. Finishing first in the Female Category was Lorie Hutchinson, in 2:11:11, improving on her 2nd place finish last year.

Top place honors in the 20K course Male Category went to Sendin, who had also finished in 2nd place in 2013. He followed by Ronald Villafria (2:04:00) and Seiya Eda (2:07:22). In the Female Category, Hutchinson was followed by Kimiko McKagan (2:16:23), while 3rd place went to Maki Narita (2:22:23).

On the 10K course, top Male finishers were Keith Longuski (48:06), Cooper Achraudenbach (57:03), who improve on his 3rd place finish in 2014, and Jack Kabriel (57:57). Jennifer Cui placed 1st in the Female Category with her 1:06:11 finish, followed by Terra Allen (1:07:25), and Sakido Eda (1:08:20).

The annual signature event of the Northern Marianas drew 68 runners from the Northern Mariana Islands. This year's run challenged 47 racers on the 10K course and 21 runners on the 20K course, which traversed from the Philippine Sea at American Memorial Park, around the peak of Mt. Tapochau, the highest point on island at about 1,500 feet above sea level, and back.

Winners received their prizes, including cash and a pound of Marianas Coffee, at the island-style awards ceremony held at Micro Beach following the event. All competitors also received a pound of Marianas Coffee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan runner Ben Babauta tackles the 8th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run on Jan. 24, 2015.

The MVA also thanked the following sponsors and supporters for making the event a success: Marianas Coffee Co., KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, Pacific Development Inc., Northern Marianas College Nursing Dept., Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Aqua Resort Club, Saipan World Resort, Yano Ent., Kinpachi Restaurant, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Department of Public Safety, Jesus Attao, BJ Attao, Frank Camacho's Turkey Farm, Norman Tenorio, Avis Rental Car, and the events numerous volunteers.

Sixty-eight runners and walkers joined the 8th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run on Jan. 24, 2015. ***(MVA)***

Talks for May 2 Pacquiao-Mayweather bout stalled anew

By MARK GIONGCO
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Just when things seemed headed in the right direction, talks for a much-anticipated megafight between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. have reportedly taken a step back.

After the top two pound-for-pound fighters met face-to-face and exchanged contact numbers in an NBA game in Miami last week, then later the same night met privately for an hour in a hotel, negotiations between opposing camps "have hit a wall," according to a report by ESPN.com's Dan Rafael.

Top Rank honcho Bob Arum told ESPN.com that time is running thin on the target May 2 bout, and if no deal is made soon, the fight may be moved to a later date.

"The thing that really concerns me is that we are running out of time for May 2," Arum said. "If you want to drag this out a little longer then move the fight to later in May -May 30 is a good date – or go in June. We agreed to go on May 2 because that is the date Mayweather is hung up on, but if we're going to go on May 2 we need to get this done."

Arum also appeared to be skeptical about Mayweather's sincerity to make the fight, which will likely go down as the most lucrative fight in boxing history, happen.

"Then Manny and Michael spent an hour or so with Mayweather in the hotel suite and they read it that, no, Mayweather really wants the fight. But I don't know. If people were really concentrating on this it could be done in no time," Arum said, referring to Pacquiao's adviser Michael Koncz, who reportedly was with the Filipino ring icon when the two welterweight champions talked in the hotel.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks to making the fight happen is striking a deal between network giants Showtime and HBO. Mayweather is under contract with Showtime for a couple more fights while Pacquiao is tied with HBO.

But apart from the network issues, Arum said there are still other deal points that are not being resolved.

"There are issues that should be solved in 10 minutes, but it's a slow dance," Arum said. "We send one draft to their side and their lawyer sends back a draft with something else that's an issue. And there doesn't seem to be any urgency about it on their side. It's terrible."

If negotiations continue to spiral and eventually come to a dead end, Pacquiao and Mayweather, though, already have prepared backup plans.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	33	16	.673	—
Brooklyn	19	28	.404	13
Boston	16	30	.348	15½
New York	10	38	.208	22½
Philadelphia	10	39	.204	23
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	40	9	.816	—
Washington	31	18	.633	9
Miami	21	26	.447	18
Charlotte	21	27	.438	18½
Orlando	15	36	.294	26
Central Division				
Chicago	30	19	.612	—
Cleveland	30	20	.600	½
Milwaukee	26	22	.542	3½
Detroit	18	30	.375	11½
Indiana	17	32	.347	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	36	12	.750	—
Houston	33	15	.688	3
Dallas	33	17	.660	4
San Antonio	30	18	.625	6
New Orleans	26	22	.542	10
Northwest Division				
Portland	32	16	.667	—
Oklahoma City	24	24	.500	8
Denver	19	29	.396	13
Utah	17	30	.362	14½
Minnesota	8	40	.167	24
Pacific Division				
Golden State	37	8	.822	—
L.A. Clippers	33	16	.673	6
Phoenix	28	22	.560	11½
Sacramento	17	29	.370	20½
L.A. Lakers	13	35	.271	25½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SONICS

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the Sonics earned a string of 4 points in the last 4.5 seconds of the third frame and restore order on the squad as Rollers 1 had late lapses. Rollers 1's first error came after Dela Rosa split his free throws, as Mike Arciaga threw an errant inbound pass which Gerald Flores intercepted. Flores then fed Bryle Alegre for a point-blanked shot and the latter also drew a foul on Mike Espinosa. Alegre completed the and-1 play, giving the Sonics more distance, 59-45, entering the fourth period.

Rollers 1 never recovered from those late errors, while the Sonics kicked of the final frame with a short 8-2 spurt to bring the lead back to 20, 67-47. Dela Rosa scored 6 of those 8 markers, as he muscled his way in the paint against his lanky defenders and it was cruise control for the Sonics from thereon.

With Dela Rosa manning the paint and drawing help from fellow bruisers Bryle Alegre and Jun Javier, the Sonics ruled the battle inside and scored a bundle off their pick-and-roll plays. Forwards Gerald Flores and Mark Ogasawara helped out, too while the backcourt duo of Jack Aranda and Sean Rabasto also caused problems for Rollers 1.

Rabasto hit early triples, while Aranda kept on attacking Rollers 1's defense from outside. The duo combined for 30 points, while Dela Rosa finished with 17, and Alegre added 10. All the 10 Sonics players who played in the finals made it to the board.

Nine scored for Rollers 1, but only three—Factor, Kobee Mendoza, and Arciaga—nailed more than one field goal for the Joe Diaz-mentored squad. Factor had a game-high 26 points, while Mendoza and Arciaga chipped in 15 and 7, but the last two could not hit baskets in streaks.

Mendoza still struggled, offensively, despite making his first attempt—a triple from the right key. Actually, Rollers 1 started on the right foot, going 3-for-3 in the first two minutes of the match with Irvin Malonzo kicking off the match with a trey from the top key, followed by Mendoza's rainbow shot, and Arciaga's drive.

The two triples in the first quarter, however, were the only shots from downtown Rollers 1 converted, as they muffed one attempt after another in the remaining minutes of the game. Rollers 1 had difficulty executing their offense against the Sonics' defense. The Sonics played zone, but were quick rotating back on defense, preventing Rollers 1 shooters from getting open looks at the basket. The eventual champions' defense also made it hard for Rollers 1 to make entry passes, as the Sonics pressured the ball recipient each time Rollers 1 swung the ball over.

On offense, the Sonics capitalized on their height advantage. Rollers 1 gave away only a few inches against Sonics' frontliners, but Tudela's wards were beefier and often managed to bulldoze their way into the basket. The Sonics' inside game was complemented by Rabasto and Aranda's outside shooting and occasional baseline attack from Jaymark De Guzman.

Meanwhile, Dream Team won the battle for third place after routing the Ol'Aces, 62-46.

Finals

Sonics 88–Aranda 20, Dela Rosa 17, Alegre 10, Rabastos 10, Javier 6, Ogasawara 6, De Guzman 6, Manzano 5, Villanueva 2.

Rollers 1 64–Factor 26, Mendoza 15, Arciaga 7, Iglecias 3, De Leon 3, Malonzo 3, Camacho 2, Fidelino 2, Espinosa 1.

Scoring by quarters: 21-14, 44-23, 59-45, 88-64.

Consolation

Dream Team 62–Francisco 21, Darag 16, E. Borja 9, Kwon 7, D. Deleon Guerrero 5, I. Borja 4, F. Deleon Guerrero 2.

Ol'Aces 46–Castillo 18, De Luna 10, Miller 4, Monte 3, Nakashima 2, Leonardo Cristobal 1.

Scoring by halves: 29-26, 62-46.

ATALIG

From Page 28

Pacific Games. The Royal Port Moresby Golf Club in the National Capital District will host the golf event.

Participants, in the last three rounds, will only pay the green fee and an additional $20 for Teac CNMI's fund to the Pacific Games.

Peters is hoping to form a strong team that will hopefully bring home a medal of any color.

Competing teams in the Pacific Games will compete for the 12 medals at stake in the men's and women's singles and the men's and women's team events.

For more information on the open tryouts, call Peters at 288-7482 or 788-7664.

Saipan Warriors bounce back

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Warriors recovered from their debut loss with a 71-59 victory over the Bombers at the resumption of games in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Warriors, who fell to KB Hite, 85-95, during the Masters league's opening last Jan. 25, finished strong to barge into the win column.

Ahead by only 4, 54-50, with still 7:45 left in the fourth quarter, Saipan Warriors held the Bombers to only one field goal for about seven minutes while scoring 15 points in that stretch. Mike Surima capped the 15-2 run with a triple, lifting Saipan Warriors a comfortable 69-56 lead, with less than a minute left in the match.

An and-1 play from Bobby Dela Cruz gave the Bombers their first field goal in a long while and also the team's last points, while Bobby Geli's layup pegged the final score.

Geli paced the Saipan Warriors with his 19 points, while Noel Mateo also finished in double figures with his 10 markers.

Mico Usi led the Bombers with his 12 points, while Art Salazar and Resty Joson chipped in 10 apiece. The Bombers were on top at the break, 38-33, after a 28-point explosion in the second quarter, but lost the driver's seat as they slowed down in the second half. They made only 12 points in the third and were limited to 9 in the final canto.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Saipan Warriors' Bobby Geli escapes with a fastbreak layup against two Bombers defenders during the fourth quarter of their game in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

In other results, Armatech won its debut in the eight-team league after whipping the Slashers, 76-58, in the curtain-raiser.

Armatech pulled away in the second half, as it tallied 28 points against the 11 of the Slashers. Before its second-quarter attack, Armatech was forced to a deadlock after the first canto, 19-19.

In the second period, James Abuy scored 7 straight points in the opening minutes, while Ferdie Tobias hit back-to-back triples and nailed 8 point to hand Armatech a 17-point advantage at the break, 47-30. Bernardo Montano also helped Armatech's cause in the second quarter, dropping 6 straight points midway in that period.

The Slashers never made headway in the second half to lose their debut.

Meanwhile, Armatech will go for win No. 2 when it takes on Blue Haus tonight at 8pm. Blue Haus also guns for its second victory in as many games after prevailing against Bammy's Restaurant, 82-70, during the league's opening last month.

In the first game at 6:30pm, KB Hite challenges Bammy's Restaurant.

First Game

Armatech 76 – Montano 16, Abuy 15, Gabaldon 14, Tobias 10, Poquiz 5, Manalili 4, Malasarte 4.

Slashers 58 – Tibayan 20, Alvarez 8, S. Ebuen 7, Tengco 7, Abadilla 6, Leong 2, Villasan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-19, 47-30, 61-43, 76-58.

Second Game

Saipan Warriors 71 – Geli 19, Mateo 10, Catindoy 9, Surima 9, Del Rio 5, Tiples 4, Santos 2, Miguel 2.

Bombers 59 – Usi 12, Joson 10, Salazar 10, Dela Cruz 9, Buniag 5, Conti 5, Echavez 3.

Scoring by quarters: 14-10, 33-38, 53-50, 71-59.

Southern, MHS use balanced scoring to beat foes

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School varsity and Marianas High School junior varsity used a balanced scoring attack to beat their respective foes in the continuation of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Friday at the MHS Gymnasium.

SSHS went 1-2 after its JV and SSHS 9 teams dropped their respective matches.

Southern walloped Saipan International School, 71-43, in the final game while MHS JV cruised to a 62-35 drubbing of SSHS 9. Kagman High School JV's 47-38 victory over SSHS JV was played in between those matches.

It was SSHS varsity's fourth straight win since absorbing an 87-56 thrashing from defending champion MHS last Jan. 14 to improve to 5-1.

SIS dropped its sixth straight game since opening with a 48-23 win over Marianas Baptist Academy on Jan. 9.

The Manta Rays had a slow start against SIS but poured on the points in the second quarter to break the game wide open and was never threatened after that.

Tyler Palacios scattered 11 points to lead two other Manta Rays who finished in double figures. Edilberto Javier Jr. and Jerwin Raquero tallied 10 markers apiece.

Jethro Cruz added 9 with Chico Bondoc and Ryan Esmundo scoring 7 each also for Southern.

Allen Cepeda paced the Geckos' losing cause with 15, while Kim Hwan Ho contributed 14.

In the first game, Warren Ellama finished with 13 points to power MHS JV to a 62-35 decision against SSHS 9.

Earl Ermitanio added 9 points, while Kenji Abobo and Michael Cenir combined for 16 also for MHS JV, which bounced back from a 47-36 loss to SSHS JV last week.

June Alipio was the lone SSHS 9 player to finish in twin digits with 10, while Franko Bondoc and Matt Kaplieo each had 7 points.

JON PEREZ

Saipan Southern High School's Ryan Esmundo, 10, battles two Kagman High School players in their game last Jan. 21. Esmundo and the Manta Rays improved to 5-1 after a 71-43 thrashing of Saipan International School last Friday.

Andrew Palino scored 20 to almost single-handedly lift Kagman JV to a 47-38 triumph over SSHS JV. Jeffrey Castro and Michael Muna combined for 16 points to provide scoring support.

No SSHS JV player hit double digits with Joseph Taitano tallying 9 points, while Art Borromeo and Issac Anderson scored 8 and 7 markers apiece.

First Game

MHS JV 62 – Ellama 13, Ermitanio 9, Abobo 8, Cenir 8, Floresca 6, Bucayo 5, Castillo 4, Cristobal 4, Miller 4, Deocares 1.

SSHS 9 35 – Alipio 10, Bondoc 7, Kapileo 7, Siech 4, Manansala 3, Cobacha 2, Malasarte 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-6, 28-18, 42-25, 62-35.

Second Game

KHS JV 47 – Palino 20, Castro 8, Muna 8, Jones 5, Aguon 2, Maniego 2, Tenorio 2.

SSHS JV 38 – Tatiano 9, Borromero 8, Anderson 7, Alipio 4, Calindrades 3, Cobacha 3, Kapileo 2, Muna 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-5, 10-20, 30-25, 47-38.

Third Game

SSHS 71 – Palacios 11, Javier Jr. 10, Raquero 10, Cruz 9, Bondoc 7, Esmundo 7, Kintaro 5, Taitano 5, Feria 4, Deleon Guerrero 3.

SIS 43 – A. Cepeda 15, H.H. Kim 14, Ramsey 7, Johnson 4, Smith 2, Joyner 1.

Scoring by quarters: 20-20, 39-22, 64-35, 71-43.

Games preparations in the homestretch

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2015 Pacific Games Organizing Committee are in the final stages of their preparations for the 15th edition of the quadrennial sporting event with GOC chief executive officer Peter Stewart assuring all competing nations that they've been doing everything as planned.

"With only five months until the 2015 Pacific Games opening ceremony, the GOC's focus is on completing the planning process that was implemented two and a half years ago," said Stewart in a commentary sent to all Pacific Games member federations.

Stewart said that the GOC, just like the athletes who are in the final phase of their training, is also in the last stages of their preparation in hosting the quadrennial sporting event.

"We are very confident that the Games will be delivered as planned because of the number of critical and very important things we have achieved and committed for," said Stewart

He added PNG is prepared to welcome the region's elite athletes and fans are eager to see them compete at their best.

Stewart also expects that veteran athletes will renew their rivalries while newcomers will just start theirs.

"The battle to see which nation will be able to improve their medal tally in this year's edition will be the highlight of the Pacific Games with athletes keen to either avenge or defend their performances."

He also expects that new heroes will rise before the Games end. "But by the closing ceremony we will be singing praises to a new crop of champions who would have thrilled us with their exploits."

"Some will produce world class performances that will put their nation on the sporting map while others will astound us with their ability to overcome what appeared to be insurmountable odds for the honor of representing their country."

The GOC is also nearing to hit its target of securing the 60 million kina (US$23.06 million) for the Pacific Games with 30 million kina (US$11.05 million) coming from sponsorship alone.

"Our target has been to raise 60 million kina and we are just about to reach that because currently the funds we have secured sits at 55 million kin (US$21.1 million), which is a combination of sponsorship and government support."

"We are on track and very confident that we will reach our target to deliver these games successfully."

In other new, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White has advised all member sports federations of the CNMI that are planning to send athletes to the Pacific Games to give him the information of their respective delegates.

"Registration for the Games is now open because we are going to send a fairly large delegation, I would like to get started as soon as possible, rather than wait until the last minute," said White in an email.

He added that federations can register as many people but if a person is not registered by the deadline the athlete cannot compete.

"So if you are ready to register any athletes, coaches, or officials, please let me have their names. If they have been registered for the Pacific Games or Micro Games in the past 10 years, I don't need any further information—although some people may want to update their photos.

"If they have not been registered for another event within the past 10 years, I need a photocopy of their passport, and a passport-size photo."

White added that only U.S. citizen athletes are eligible to compete in the Pacific Games but the rule does not apply to coaches or officials.

Brady, in 'midst of my career' at 37, set on more titles
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Saipan Warriors bounce back
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Sonics crush Rollers 1 in U19 finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 670 Sonics clinched the boys U19 championship in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic, following an impressive 88-64 victory over Rollers 1 last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Sonics dominated Rollers 1 in the first half and withstood the latter's third-quarter rally to pull off an upset against their top-ranked foe.

The Jess Tudela-coached Sonics enjoyed a 21-point halftime advantage, 44-23, and padded the lead to 27, 52-25, with less than two minutes gone by in the third. However, the Sonics saw its big lead trimmed down to 10, 55-45, as Prince Factor anchored a Rollers 1 fight-back. Factor scored all but 18 points in Rollers 1's 20-3 spurt in the next seven minutes of the third canto, making all kinds of shots to keep his team in the game.

The Sonics lost the big lead, as only Eric Dela Rosa made it to the board in that exchange with his 3-point play. However,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The 670 Sonics' Jack Aranda goes up for a left-handed shot against Rollers 1's Prince Factor, right, during the second quarter of their title game in the boys U19 division of the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

SIDEBAR

Alipio, Espinosa take MVP honors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Armatech's Chevy Kate Alipio and Rollers 1's Mike Espinosa were named most valuable players in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic that concluded last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Alipio

Alipio took the MVP honors in the women's division, while Espinosa earned the same distinction in the boys U19 age group.

Espinosa

Alipio won the most coveted individual award for leading Armatech to a perfect record in the six-team league. She was among the top scorers on the Armatech, which swept the elimination round. In the finals, the Saipan Southern High School standout drilled a clutch basket that saved Armatech's title bid. Alipio hit a baseline shot after IT&E moved within a point, 39-40. Armatech went on to escape with a 44-42 title win against IT&E.

In the boys U19 division, the MVP award was a sort of consolation for Espinosa, as his Rollers 1 fell to the 670 Sonics in last weekend's finale, 64-66.

Before the finals loss, Espino helped Rollers 1 top the elimination round with its 5-1 record.

Both Espinosa and Alipio received medals from Tan Holdings vice president Eli Arago during the awards ceremony.

Arago also handed out awards to members of the Mythical Team. The Sonics' Jack Aranda led the selection in the boys U19 division and was joined by Rollers 2's Dalton Dancoe, Dream Team's Ignacio Borja, the Ol'Aces Tristan Montes, and Kagman Risers' Jesse Santos.

In the women's division, Shirley's Coffee Shop's Jeraldine Castillo made the elite group, which also had Fiesta Resort's Friendly Joy Pena, IT&E's Kyla Ito, Kanoa Resort's Kelsey Lizama, and Sun Palace Hotel's Marlene Lumabi.

Atalig tames COP to remain frontrunner

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

J.J. Atalig is showing that he wants to clinch one of the four spots on the NMI Men's National Golf Team as he again topped the second round of tryouts last Saturday held at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

The third of the five-round open tryouts will be held for the last time at COP with registration starting at 10am and tee off at 11am. The last two rounds, on Feb. 14 and 21, will then move to Kingfisher Golflinks with the same registration and shotgun start times.

Atalig, who on Jan. 31 fired a 76, again shot the lowest score with a 77 to remain the frontrunner in the team being formed for the 2015 Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea set from July 4 to 18 in Port Moresby.

Ed Peters, who is supervising the tryouts and has showed his intention of coaching the team, also shot a 77 followed by Louie Tilipao's 78 and the 80 and 83 each of Harry Nakamura and Franco Santos.

Peters, in a telephone interview, said that the Marianas Golf Association made a pledge of donating funds to the CNMI men's golf team.

Atalig

"We're very thankful for the pledge they made to contribute on the fund of the team. This will be a big help on tphhe team's trip to the Pacific Games," said Peters.

He again renewed his invitation to all local golfers to join Saturday's third round.

"Even if you are not going to tryout, come and join us in playing golf. Come and support the team. I also call on all members of the Refaluwasch Golf Association to show their support," added Peters.

The gross scores of all participants after they complete the five rounds will be compiled to determine the Top 12 who will make the final cut and move on to the next stage where they will play another five rounds. Each tryout plays 18 holes.

The Top 5 players, including the alternate, after the final five-round qualifying stage will represent the CNMI in the XV

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